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Community Pride Reporter

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VOL. 4, Number 3

September, 1996

The Education of Penny Culliton

by Suzanne F. Pyle

In a little rural southern New Hampshire town, New Ipswich, a highschool teacher carefully selects various books to be used in her literature classes for the upcoming year. She is joined by a committee of students and interested parents, who also review and read the books considered for purchase. After another review by yet another committee, several books are rejected that could be perceived as promoting sexual activity.

By the end of June 1994, the highschool teacher and her department head decide which books to purchase based on the committee's review: Bette Greene's "The Drowning of Stephen Jones", May Sarton's "The Education of Harriet Hatfield", and E.M. Forster's "Maurice".

Little did the highschool teacher from Mascenic Regional know she'd eventually be fired for using two of the three works of literature in her country classroom. This was just the beginning of the education of Penny Culliton.

Culliton has now become famous whether she likes it or not. Her case is

tabulated in countless newspapers, Web sites, and widely publicized throughout various educational organizations both

locally and nationally. The National Coalition Against Censorship, which believes that schools and libraries are the setting for many community censorship controversies, has supported Culliton's plight with the Mascenic School Board. And through support from New Hampshire's NEA, Culliton was able to face the Board and get her job back.

Culliton had secured grants with school district support to acquire several books for her course work, including

The Drowning of Stephen Jones, The Education of Harriet Hatfield, and Maurice. In January 1995, after the

books had been purchased, the administration ordered the books to be removed from the classroom shelves, even though they had already been approved for use. Culliton learned that the School Board, which included some right-wing conservatives, did not want any books with gay or lesbian char-

acters discussed in the school.

She asked the principal if this decision to remove books included The Complete Poems of Walt Whitman, another grant-supported book that was be-

ing used in her 11th grade American Lit class. She was told the Whitman book could remain in use. Culliton removed the three defamed books from the classroom and asked the School Board for more clarification about why the book banning had occurred. The School Board and Superintendent would not provide written confirmation about this apparent about-face policy change.

In April 1995, Culliton started using Maurice in her senior British Lit class. While students were also given the choice to read The Mayor of Casterbridge, about half the class chose Maurice. In May, another of Culliton's Lit classes wanted to read The Education of Harriet Hatfield. It had been listed on the curriculum since September 1994.

While the School Board was not very communicative in making it clear to Culliton that she was not to use the three committee-approved, grant-supported books in the classroom, they were straight to the point when they told her she was fired on grounds of insubordination. **see CULLITON, page 4.**



Protesters and T-Shirt Shop at Impasse Demonstration Turns Ugly

By Leslie Robinson, New Hampshire
Editor

It's a stalemate. The owners of the Shirt Factory, a T-shirt shop in Hampton Beach, N.H., say they will continue to sell T-shirts bearing an anti-gay slogan. Concerned Citizens of the Seacoast, the grassroots group opposed to the sale of the shirts, promises to keep the pressure on the store.

Concerned Citizens of the Seacoast

ing charges at each other.

At the first demonstration, held July 9, about 70 people protested the selling of T-shirts reading "AIDS Cures Fags," and "Silly Faggot, Dix are for Chix." Protest organizer Carl Bletzer confronted Shirt Factory owner David Maleh and Maleh's son Danny, the store manager, asking that the shirts be removed. David agreed that the "AIDS" shirt shouldn't be sold. Shortly after-



staged a picket outside the Shirt Factory at noon on Sunday, August 25, the second such demonstration this summer outside the store at 117 Ocean Boulevard. Unlike the first protest, this one took a nasty turn, with both sides yell-

wards Danny said they would stop selling the other one also. But after the protest had ended, David said the "Faggot" shirts would go back up for sale if other Hampton Beach shops continued to **see PROTEST, page 5**

Etheridge Rocks Portland... Again

by Dixie J. Townsend

The first time I saw Melissa Etheridge perform at Portland City Hall, with only her first, self-titled album under her belt, I knew she was a force to be reckoned with. Suffice it to say that seven years, five albums, and five Portland performances later, Melissa still rocks my world.

In the past eight years since that first album, Etheridge's following has grown substantially. The 1993 release of her breakthrough *Yes I Am* was the culmination of years of hard work and dedication. Her success was, in my mind, inevitable.

A leather-clad Etheridge was in Portland Sunday Night (August 26) at the Cumberland County Civic Center in support of her most recent album, *Your Little Secret*. An always personable Etheridge proclaimed to be "very happy living this rock chick life I have always dreamed of." She and her band, consisting of John Shanks on guitar, Mark Browne on bass and Kenny Arnoff on drums, performed all of the ten songs on *Your Little Secret*.

Etheridge began the show with "I Really Like You," and without a break between songs went head first into a rocking "I Want to Come Over." About forty minutes into the show Etheridge performed "Silent Legacy," a personal favorite touching on pride, prejudice,

misunderstanding and finally self-acceptance. Etheridge made us believe "I Could of Been You," then disappeared from the stage only to reappear on a second stage located at the opposite end of the building. Within seconds, I was turned completely around and dancing on my chair to "No Souvenirs." The place went nuts! In all, about five songs were performed on the second stage, in-

See ETHERIDGE, page 16



Balsoni Photo

TASK FORCE SALUTES SIGNING OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE ACT;

Despite Shortcomings, this bill is an Historic first

Washington, D.C., August 21, 1996...In a victory for advocates who have fought long and hard for health care reform, President Clinton today signed into law the Health Care Coverage Availability and Affordability Act of 1996. The act marks the first time any legislation has been adopted to protect people with preexisting medical conditions — including HIV — from total exclusion from health insurance coverage. Activists said the bill is an important step in protecting the health of all Americans, including people with AIDS.

"This new law breaks some major ground in the movement toward making health care insurance accessible to more Americans, including those living with HIV and AIDS," said Melinda Paras, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), who attended the White House Rose Garden signing ceremony. "Many of the provisions in the bill will call for major changes in the current practice of some insurance companies, and make it more difficult for them to redline people with

AIDS."

The new law, H.R. 3103, will no longer allow insurance companies to lock out from coverage people with preexisting medical conditions who move from one job to another. If a person moves from one job to another, he or she cannot be denied medical coverage in the new job for a preexisting condition, except for a one-time, 12-month exclusion for any such condition that was diagnosed or treated in the preceding six months. After the 12-month period, the condition would be covered. The 12-month exclusion is a lifetime limit so long as an individual maintains continuous coverage.

The law also blocks insurers from denying coverage or charging higher premiums to individuals in group plans who are in poor health. It also prohibits insurance companies from refusing to sell policies to small employers (those with two to 50 employees). In addition, the law provides a tax break for people with terminal illnesses who cash in their life insurance policies, as many people with AIDS have done.

At the same time NGLTF praised portions of the bill, it also pointed out its shortcomings.

"While the Kassebaum-Kennedy legislation is an important first step, it falls significantly short of addressing the critical issue of making health insurance both accessible and affordable for all Americans," said NGLTF's Paras. For example, the legislation sets no limit on the cost of health coverage nor does it address the fact that millions of Americans have no health coverage at all.

At least two other provisions in the bill caused concern for activists. One is the creation of a Medical Savings Ac-

MAN ADMITS KILLING LESBIANS IN OREGON BECAUSE THEY WERE HOMOSEXUAL

Washington, D.C., Aug. 21, 1996...The man charged with the killing of Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill of Medford, Oregon, has said he killed them because he hates homosexuals and bisexuals. The recent development in the case has been reported in the Associated Press and local Oregon media today. The statements by the alleged killer, Robert Acremant, have refocused attention on the case and reopened wounds in the Medford community.

Ellis and Abdill, an openly lesbian couple and local activists, were murdered "execution style" last December in Medford. Their bodies were found bound and gagged in a pick-up truck. Soon after his arrest, Acremant made a variety of statements regarding the killings, including at first that it was a botched robbery. Later he said he knew the women were lesbians and that it made it "easier" for him to kill them.

Although Medford law enforcement has always kept open the possibility of a hate crime motivation for the killings, debate has ensued, especially in some gay and lesbian media and other parts of the community, around the actual motive for the murders.

Following is a statement by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), attributable to Melinda Paras, executive director. Soon after the bodies were discovered, NGLTF appealed to the Department of Justice for a federal response to the possible hate crime.

The recent statement by Robert Acremant indicating he killed Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill because they were lesbians refocuses the spotlight on this troubled case and the possible hate crime motivation behind the murders.

Regardless of Mr. Acremant's rantings and attention-getting tactics, numerous facts in the case have all along informed our suspicions of the anti-gay bias motivation for the murders.

The facts include: Ellis and Abdill were proud and highly visible activists in the local gay, lesbian and bisexual community. The accused killer knew they were lesbians. This made it "easier," in his own words, to kill them. He killed them because, in his own words, they were homosexual. He has admitted to inventing the robbery motive for fear of reprisal.

This story is not about Robert Acremant and his demons. It is about Roxanne and Michelle and their deaths. They were intentionally and methodically executed by a killer who admits to destroying them because they were lesbians. The evidence in this case and the larger social and political climate for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people speaks to the constant threat of hate-motivated violence perpetrated against all of us.

New confessions of the murders being a hate crime and not a "botched robbery" are not a surprise to us. This has been a primary suspicion since the first hour the bodies were found.

In fact, the recent developments in this case point to concerns around another case now being investigated by the Department of Justice. NGLTF has asked the DOJ to consider anti-lesbian bias as a possible motivation in the slayings of Julianne Williams and Lollie Winans. The two women were found murdered in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park on June 1, 1996. Although

See KILLING, page 8

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GAYS ALLEGE A WITCH HUNT AT A HAWAIIAN MILITARY BASE

Washington, D.C.—U.S. News reports: Three years after President Clinton ordered the military not to pursue gay service members who don't tell anyone about their homosexuality, gays are being investigated and expelled more often than ever, reports U.S. News & World Report in its September 2 issue (on newsstands Monday, August 26). The Air Force discharged 234 last year under the policy, up about 30 percent over 1994. Such discharges for the armed forces overall increased 21 per-

cent.

An Air Force investigation into the sexual conduct of an Air Force technical sergeant at Hawaii's Hickam Air Force Base is threatening the airman's hopes of spending 20 years in the service and is casting serious doubts on whether the Pentagon is obeying the Clinton administration's controversial "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuals in the military.

U.S. News reports that the Hickam case suggests that some local command-

ers may be ignoring Washington's pronouncements. Pentagon rules allow official inquiries about homosexual acts but not about mere sexual orientation and bar service members from stating they are gay.

An Air Force official argues that most commanders understand the policy and believe it is working. But that doesn't satisfy gays trying to serve without revealing their sexuality, who say that the military too often has broken its pledge to respect their privacy. ΔΔ

Speak your Mind... We're listening

The MAINE EQUITY FUND wants to know what you think is most important to the future of Maine's gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender communities. The Maine Community Foundation has a challenge grant from the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership. Over the next two years, the Maine Community Foundation will raise local matching funds and will distribute \$120,000 to programs meeting our communities' needs and addressing issues of diversity and dis-

crimination and discrimination shared with other minority communities.

HAVE A VOICE as we set our funding priorities; tell us what's important, what works, what doesn't. Our "needs assessment" surveys will be out in mid-September and are due back by October 15th. If you don't receive one or if you want extras to pass on to your more hard-to-find friends and colleagues, call Marjorie Love at (207) 773-6164 or write c/o Maine Community Foundation—Maine Equity Fund, P.O. Box 148, Ellsworth, ME 04605. ΔΔ

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YOU'VE GOT THE POWER - VOTE

by Karen Geraghty, President, MLGPA

Election Day 1996 is Tuesday, November 5. If we exercise our power and vote-we can accomplish much. We can vote to re-elect a President who, while not perfect, has done more for the g/l/b/t communities than all previous president's combined! He has a long way to go - but we can't work with him if he's not there.

If we exercise our power and vote - we can elect a pro-gay U.S. Senator - Joe Brennan. He strongly and vigorously supports E.N.D.A. - the federal anti-discrimination bill. Sadly, Susan Collins has already caved in to the far right in her party - and does not support even a basic employment non-discrimination law for g/l/b/t people.

If we exercise our power and vote - we can defeat Jim Longley in the First Congressional District and re-elect John Baldacci in the Second Congressional District.

If we exercise our power and vote - we can elect a strong pro-gay Maine Senate. Here are the candidates we have endorsed as of August 15. Please call our toll free hotline for more information: 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Maine Senate - MLGPA Endorsements (listing as of August 20)

District	Candidate(s)
1	Judy Paradis, D-Frenchville
5	Jill Goldthwait, U-Bar Harbor
6	Richard Ruhlin, D-Brewer
7	Mary Cathcart, D-Orono

9	Robert Murray, Jr., D-Bangor
11	Susan Longley, D-Liberty
12	Rochelle Pingree, D-No.Haven
13	S. Peter Mills, R-Skowhegan
14	Richard Carey, D-Belgrade
15	Beverly Daggett, D-Augusta
16	Marge Kilkelly, D-Wiscasset
17	James R. Burrill, D-Strong
18	Sharon Treat, D-Gardiner
19	Mary Small, R-Bath
20	John Nutting, D-Leeds
21	John Jenkins, D-Lewiston
22	John Cleveland, D-Auburn
23	Philip Harriman, R-Yarmouth
	John Portela, D-Brunswick
25	Brian Sessions, D-Norway
26	Jeffrey Butland, R-Cumberland Center
	Frederick Williams, D-Windham
27	Joel Abromson, R-Portland
	Boyd Marley, D-Portland
28	Anne Rand, D-Portland
29	William O'Gara, D-Westbrook
30	Jane Amero, R-Cape Elizabeth
31	Peggy Pendleton, D-Scarborough
	Joan Pendexter, R-Scarborough
32	Lloyd LaFountain, D-Biddeford
33	Gordon N. Paul, D-Sanford
34	Barbara C. Holt, D-Alfred
35	Mark Lawrence, D-Kittery Point

Endorsed candidates for the Maine House will be listed in the October issue of CPR. ΔΔ

National Group Supports record number of Openly Gay Candidates

Washington, D.C.—July 30, 1996—The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund today recommended 11 more openly gay and lesbian candidates to its national donor network, bringing the total number of Victory Fund candidates to a record 27. This is the largest slate of openly gay candidates ever endorsed by the Victory Fund, the only national gay and lesbian organization whose sole mission is to increase the number of qualified, openly gay public officials. The newly recommended candidates and their races are:

Steve Gunderson [R] for U.S. Congress (WI-3); Primary: 10 Sept.
David Curtis [D] for Vermont State Senate; Primary: 10 Sept.
Randy Kottwitz [D] for New Hampshire State House; General: 5 Nov.
David Parks [D] for Nevada State House; Primary: 3 Sept.
Art Feltman [D] for Connecticut State House; Primary: 10 Sept.
Leslie Katz for San Francisco Board of Supervisors; General: 5 Nov.
Libby Cowan [D] for Costa Mesa (CA) City Council; General: 5 Nov.
Paul Feinman [D] for New York Civil Court; Primary: 10 Sept.
Juanita Owens for San Francisco School Board; General: 5 Nov.
Gary Miller for Robla (CA) School Board; General: 5 Nov.
Jason Schommer [D] for Sedgwick County (KS) Registrar of Deeds; Primary: 5 Aug.

These highly qualified candidates join the Victory Fund's other 15 recommended candidates:

Ed Flanagan for Vermont State Auditor; Primary: 10 Sept.
Rick Zbur for U.S. Congress (CA-38); General: 5 Nov.
Larry McKeon for Illinois State House; General: 5 Nov.
Shella Kuehl for California State Assembly; General: 5 Nov.
Carole Migden for California State Assembly; General: 5 Nov.
Gerrie Schlipske for California State Assembly; General: 5 Nov.
Chuck Carpenter for Oregon State House; Primary: 21 May
Ken Chevront for Arizona State House; Primary: 12 Sept.
Deborah Glick for New York State Assembly; Primary: 10 Sept.
Mike Pisaturo for Rhode Island State House; Primary: 10 Sept.
Ed Murray for Washington State House; Primary: 17 Sept.
Dan Stewart for Mayor of Plattsburgh (NY); Primary: Sept 1997
Gail Shibley for Portland City Council; General: 5 Nov.
Mark Leban for Dade County (FL) Court; General: 5 Nov.
Jeffrey Ayers for Franklin County (OH) Court; General: 5 Nov.
Sebastian Patti for Cook County (IL) Court; General: 5 Nov. ΔΔ

Decline to Sign Cosby's latest petition!

As many of you now know, Cosby is back! She is collecting signatures for yet another anti-gay referendum. When we last reported, DECLINE TO SIGN was just completing its strategy plan for the next six months. With that strategy plan now up and running, we are on our way to defeating Cosby at the petition table.

DECLINE TO SIGN, the project designed to prevent Cosby from collecting enough signatures to put to referendum her latest anti-gay initiative, is a state wide effort of outreach and education. The project will only succeed, however, if we can organize and train hundreds of volunteers.

Volunteers will be needed at almost every polling place in the state of Maine on November 5. We ask that everyone who cares about stopping this anti-gay tirade please take November 5 off from work and help us at the polls. Your time and effort will contribute to this proactive strategy we are taking to prevent another referendum (which surely would be reactive on our part).

There are two very important things you can do between now and September 30.

1) call 1-888-DON'T-SIGN and request a volunteer form

2) plan to attend one of the following trainings:

Saturday, September 7 10am - 1pm UU Church, AUGUSTA

Sunday, September 8 1 - 4 pm UU Church, BANGOR

Monday, September 16 6 - 9 pm YWCA, PORTLAND

Wednesday, September 25 6 - 9 pm L-A College, LEWISTON

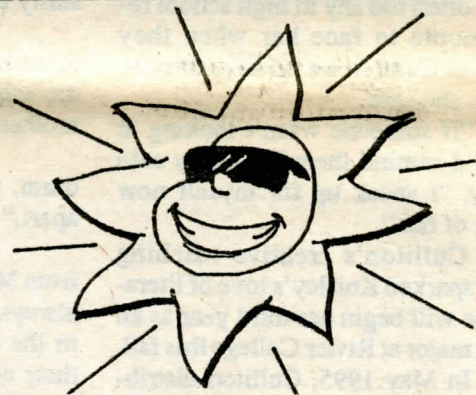
Saturday, September 28 1 - 4 pm UU Church, ELLSWORTH

More trainings to be announced soon. Call the DECLINE TO SIGN office (1-888-DON'T-SIGN) for update.

Please join this ambitious, dedicated, won't-this-be-fun DTS team as we proactively defeat Cosby at the petition table. WE NEED YOUR HELP! PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

We also need money to fund the project (mailings, literature, bumper stickers, etc). Please dig deep (yet again), make checks payable to DECLINE TO SIGN and send contributions to

DECLINE TO SIGN 142 High Street, Suite 622 Portland, ME. 04101. Phone 1-888-DON'T-SIGN. ΔΔ



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News from the Granite State

Portsmouth man Assaulted

City Not So Tolerant After All?

by Leslie Robinson, New Hampshire
Editor

A gay Portsmouth resident was attacked as he walked home late on Saturday night, August 10.

Jim Roger, 35, had left Desert Hearts, a gay club, and was walking on Maplewood Avenue when three men got out of a car. They pushed him to the ground and punched and kicked him, yelling "fag," and "You're the reason why there's AIDS."

The hate crime left Roger with a broken nose and bruises and cuts on his face and arms.

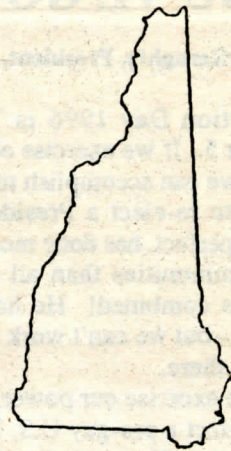
Roger told police that he didn't report the assault until the next morning because he feared the police would ignore the incident since he is gay.

That sentiment has received more local press attention than the attack itself. Portsmouth has a reputation for tolerance, but Roger charged that the city and its police are far from gay friendly.

Roger told the Portsmouth Herald, "Assaults on gays happen more often than you think in Portsmouth, but the fear is, police won't care and you'll just be subject to more abuse."

"I don't know how Mr. Roger could make the charges he makes when the police have gone to great lengths to reach out to the gay community," Police Commander Brad Russ responded in the Herald. He noted that, among other efforts, every officer has participated in a cultural sensitivity training program.

On August 19 the Portsmouth City Council passed a proclamation in response to the beating that stated, in part: "Portsmouth remains committed to em-



bracing and protecting the security of the gay and lesbian members of this community."

Roger attended the City Council meeting and was decidedly more upbeat about Portsmouth and its police department. He told the Portsmouth Herald, "I've talked with Cmdr. Brad Russ. We're starting to close the gap again. We have a good understanding." ΔΔ

Former Student Supports Return of Fired Teacher

by Holly Ramner, Associated Press
Writer

MASON, N.H. (AP) — Before Penny Culliton stood up against the school board that fired her after she distributed books with homosexual themes, she spoke up for students like Marlene Knisley.

On the day before Culliton was scheduled to be reinstated to her teaching post at Mascenic Regional High School Wednesday, Knisley recalled how her former English teacher inspired her to achieve.

Because Knisley is hearing-impaired, she relies on lip-reading but said she was often too shy in high school remind people to face her when they spoke. But Culliton was always there to help her, she said.

"If someone wasn't looking at me, she'd remind them," Knisley said Tuesday. "I speak up for myself now because of her."

Culliton's creative teaching method sparked Knisley's love of literature. She will begin her third year as an English major at Rivier College this fall.

In May 1995, Culliton distributed three books — "Maurice" by E. M. Forster, "The Education of Harriet Hatfield" by May Sarton and "The Drowning of Stephen Jones" by Bette Greene to junior and senior English classes. The books portray homosexual characters in a positive light.

The school board fired her last

September for insubordination, saying she assigned the books after they specifically told her not to. Culliton appealed and a neutral arbitrator ruled that she should be reinstated at the beginning of this school year without back-pay.

The school board's appeal of the arbitrator's ruling was rejected by the Public Employee Relations Board, and the school board announced Monday that it would not fight the ruling.

School Board Chairman Steven Lizotte said Monday night that the panel disagreed with the labor board's decision, but fighting the ruling would harm students and staff and would unnecessarily burden taxpayers.

Culliton's controversy is just the latest issue to divide the towns that share the school district, Marlene Knisley's mother Diane said.

"The towns need a happy medium, instead they're always splitting apart," she said.

Mrs. Knisley, who graduated from Mascenic herself, said her goal has always been to keep her three children in the same school system throughout their educations. She became discouraged when Culliton was fired, but said Culliton's reinstatement gives her hope that her other children will follow in their sister's footsteps. Her son Jesse will be a senior this year, Jared will be a freshman.

"Penny Culliton treats these kids like adults," Mrs. Knisley said. "We need See STUDENTS, page 19

CULLITON, from page 1

nation.

A pile of brand new Sarton and Forster books sat in boxes waiting to be sent back to the bookseller. The kids at Mascenic Regional Highschool would have to settle for reading stories that weren't so threatening to the grown-ups around them. But how to decide what really is good literature for a teen?

The book banning business appears to make these decisions for them. And the history of banning goes back to the beginning of language. The Comstock Law in this country alone can take credit for banning masterpiece works such as Aristophanes Lysistrata, Chaucer's Canterbury tales, and even the Arabian Nights. Authors such as Honore de Balzac, Victor Hugo, Oscar Wilde, Ernst Hemingway, Eugene O'Neil, and William Faulkner were all pronounced guilty of cramming their books with sex, sin and blasphemy.

Even Walt Whitman, whose poetry seemed safe for the Mascenic School Board, was subjected to the banning of Leaves of Grass in Boston in 1881 as the lyrical lines Whitman wrote seemed to set off the puritanical harmony of gentle readers.

The Education of Harriet Hatfield is the insightful work of May Sarton, who wrote 53 books, including 19 novels, 17 books of poetry and 15 nonfiction works, plus too many more to men-

tion. She is typically celebrated in academic circles as an author with far-reaching insights into issues of love, creativity, and aging, as well as her dedication to a life lived as a poet. Sarton died in her 83rd year, just shortly before Culliton was fired.

It was in April of this year that Culliton won an arbitration to get her job back. After appealing the School Board's decision, the arbitrator decided that Culliton could return to work as an English teacher in September, although she was not awarded back-pay or compensation for the school year wages that she lost because of being fired. Dennis Murphy, a spokesman for New Hampshire's NEA called the decision, "a real victory, for both Penny and for every teacher in New Hampshire."

Shortly after the arbitrator's decision, the seven-member School Board declared that they would fight the decision and take their appeal to superior court. Murphy responded by saying that the School Board's reaction only makes a lawyer richer by fighting the reinstatement of Culliton. Murphy also said that Culliton's contract clearly states that disputes over arbitration must go to the state Labor Board, not superior court, and the NEA plans to go to the labor panel to ensure that the School Board complies with the contract.

See CULLITON, page 5



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Seacoast Gay Men

In existence for over 20 years, Seacoast Gay Men is the area's leading social organization for gay men and their friends. We represent a diverse mix of men in terms of age, interests, political orientation, levels of active involvement in community, etc. Meetings are held weekly on Monday nights at 7 p.m. in the Unitarian Universalist Church at 292 State Street in Portsmouth, NH, except holidays and special events. SGM attracts men from

southern Maine, coastal NH, and north shore Massachusetts. The first Monday of the month is PotLuck Dinner; always an epicurean delight! Other nights are devoted to a variety of topics and activities; occasionally we go off-site for activities such as bowling, movies, pride parades, and picnics. We can be reached: by mail at PO Box 1394, Portsmouth NH 03802-1394, by e-mail at SGMident@aol.com, and by phone at 603-430-4052. Please visit us soon! ΔΔ

PROTEST, from page 1

them.

Immediately, Bletzer and fellow Concerned Citizens circulated a "Commercial Pledge of Decency" among T-shirt sellers around town. Of the 41 businesses contacted, 31 signed the pledge, agreeing not to sell the two styles of shirts or any variations of them.

Meanwhile, the "Faggot" shirts stayed down for 10 days at The Shirt Factory, according to Danny Maleh, who said Bletzer had promised to get the other stores to stop selling the shirts within three days. "I gave 'em a little longer," Maleh said.

On July 23, Bletzer and some supporters asked Danny Maleh to sign the pledge and stop selling the shirts. He refused, saying he would stop selling them when Concerned Citizens convinced the other shops to do the same.

That set the stage for the second protest. The "Silly Faggot, Dix are for Chix" shirt hung well inside the store, not visible from the sidewalk. The Shirt Factory had slashed prices for its liquidation sale, so the shirt was going for \$10.

Before protesters arrived, Danny Maleh, 17, said, "I don't like selling the shirt myself. I sell it because everyone else has it." The "AIDS Cures Fags" shirt was a sample he was sent, he said. He sold those he had and didn't order more, finding them "disgusting."

He said what really makes him mad is Bletzer saying this is a matter of hate. "I've never hated any gay person in my life," Maleh said. "That's such bulls__."

Maleh said he had received death threats over the previous week, at the rate of more than one a day.

Maleh fiercely believes The Shirt Factory is being singled out. The other stores selling the "Faggot" shirt have not endured protesters. He said he heard that Concerned Citizens entered those stores, asked that the shirt be taken down, were told no, and did nothing else about it.

Of the ten stores selling the shirt, Maleh said, two—this Shirt Factory and another Shirt Factory further down the boulevard—belong to his parents, and two other stores belong to his uncle. The

owners of the remaining six are not related to the Malehs, he maintained.

About 10 minutes before the hour, one of the Hampton policemen preparing for the protest told Maleh he thought things should go smoothly, and Maleh told him that he didn't want the demonstrators coming into the store.

Danny was a man in demand, as new England Cable News, Channel 9, and Channel 13 all wanted to talk to him. He brushed his hair in preparation for going on live with Channel 13 in front of the store. But his more mundane duties called—he had to bolt back into the shop to ring up a customer instead.

At 12:07 the protest began. About 35 people participated. Most walked in a circle outside the store, carrying signs like, "Stop this Hate Merchant." Both styles of shirt were displayed, along with the words, "Sample From This Store. Could You Buy This?" Two women held a banner reading, "Clean Up Hampton Beach. Decency Before Profit." Other demonstrators handed out information. The picketers chanted, "People with AIDS die by the hour. What do we do? Fight the power."

Bletzer told the media that The Shirt Factory is the most offensive store on the beach. It's the only one that has sold the "AIDS" shirt.

Bletzer said on July 9 David Maleh promised to stop selling the "Faggot" shirts if Concerned Citizens got the support of other stores. The group has done that, Bletzer said, citing the signatories of the pledge. Of those who didn't sign and are still selling the shirts, two are the Malehs' Shirt Factory stores, and the rest are stores owned by their relatives or are stores in which the Maleh's have a vested interest, Bletzer believes. David Maleh "reneged on his promise," said Bletzer.

At 12:40 Bletzer and David Maleh met at the edge of the store. Bletzer demanded the removal of the "AIDS" and "Faggot" shirts, "because we deem them hateful and ignorant." Maleh responded that Bletzer hadn't met his promise.

Soon shouts came from the protesters looking on. "Fascist scum! Take 'em down!" Yelled one. "Liar!" shouted another. Their shouting intensified, nearly drowning out the two men.

Business Profile

Gay Adventure Travel

Deborah Cloutier, a native of Dover, has recently opened an office of Gay Adventure Travel in Dover, New Hampshire. Gay Adventure Travel is a full-service travel agency catering to the gay and lesbian community. Cloutier, the owner and manager of the Dover office, brings extensive experience and academic training in the travel and tourism industry, including client relations and management, to her work with Gay Adventure Travel. Her personal travel and tour planning experience encompass the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, among other destinations.

Gay Adventure Travel works directly with most tour operators—whether it be a warm weather destination with Olivia in Sonora Bay, Mexico or Copper Mountain, Colorado ski vacation. The options are wide-ranging

and unbelievable. Recognizing that to date there have been only limited custom-designed travel programs offered to the gay and lesbian community in the New England area, Gay Adventure Travel has set up a division of their company, named Gay Adventure Tours, to feature quality personalized tour programs to meet the needs of the community. Utilizing their experience in individual group travel to "special places," GAT has its own bicycle tours to Vermont that run May through October. These tours use the finest bed and breakfast inns in Vermont.

Cloutier says that her office will stop at nothing to reach the ultimate in customer satisfaction.

Gay Adventure Travel is recognized by the International Gay Travel Association and is a member of the Seacoast Womens Business Center. **AA**

Then the headliners were also yelling and pointing fingers at each other, Maleh and his son Danny on one side, Bletzer and Gerry Scoppettuolo of AIDS Response of the Seacoast on the other. The Malehs retreated into their store. "Take 'em down now!" Scoppettuolo yelled after them. He promised a demonstration on a national scale and decried the Malehs' making money from those shirts while people are dying of AIDS.

A line of police, two of whom were on horseback, separated the protesters from the store. The protesters yelled "Shame," and "Liar." One of several teenage boys to have purchased the shirt over the span of the demonstration walked by wearing the "Faggot" shirt. "You idiot," a protester barked.

As the demonstrators chanted "We'll be back," Danny and his mother Shirley called Bletzer a "liar" to reporters.

Shirley said they haven't sold the

"AIDS" shirt since before the first protest. She also said she is sure that not a single store that was selling the "Faggot" shirt has stopped selling it.

Her store closes this month, with the end of the tourist season.

In a twist to the whole matter, a screen-printing business in Salem, N.H., also called The Shirt Factory, has started legal proceedings to prevent the Malehs from using that name for their stores. The Salem Shirt Factory supports Concerned Citizens of the Seacoast to the point that it donated over \$500 worth of T-shirts to the group. Each picketer wore a shirt reading "Decency Before Profit! Operation Clean Up Hampton Beach '96'."

That made the picketers better-dressed than one of the teenage boys who bought the "Faggot" shirt. He had to return it to get his money back, because he didn't have enough gas money to get home. **AA**

CULLITON, from page 4

Although Culliton is preparing for return to rural Mascenic Regional High this Fall, she still has not received a contract from the School Board. "As we have not yet heard from the Labor Board, the School Board is continuing to ignore the arbitrator's award," says Culliton. "I did meet with my department head, though, and found out what classes I'll be teaching. I have been preparing and I intend to start the year along with everyone else. I'm tired of the game playing!"

Culliton, who values diversity more than conformance to outdated approaches to education, isn't gay. She and her husband live in another rural New

Hampshire town nearby the highschool. Recently, she helped to create Monadnock Outright, a gay/straight youth alliance for teens and young adults.

"My main issue since I was about 16 years old is that kids in rural schools don't get a fair shot at getting a good education, they don't get the opportunities that kids get in the city, where there

See CULLITON, page 19

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Gay Delegates courted at Democratic Convention

CHICAGO (AP) — More than 140 openly gay delegates at this year's Democratic National Convention constitute the largest gay contingent in the party's history, and they are getting unprecedented attention from party leaders.

They were welcomed Sunday by Jesse Jackson and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. On Monday, Democratic National Committee Chairman Don Fowler took them to

brunch. On Tuesday, they got a visit from Tipper Gore.

Sen. Barbara Boxer of California and Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, the Democratic Party chairman, were on the gay caucus' guest list today.

The party has also been careful to put a number of openly gay speakers on the podium, including Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, California Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl and Rick

Zbur, a California congressional candidate.

"We are at the political table for the first time in many states, and I would rather be debating and fine-tuning our issue with a Bill Clinton than have a Bob Dole, who won't even give me an audience," said George Eighmey, a gay delegate and state representative from Oregon.

Political analysts say the gay community represents a strong activist

core and a source of substantial campaign contributions. They say gay voters contributed to Clinton's victory in 1992 and may tip the balance in some congressional races this November.

Many gays and lesbians were disappointed that President Clinton did not fulfill his 1992 campaign pledge to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military. And many are angry over Clinton's

See DELEGATES, page 18

Clinton to Gays: Focus on Common Ground

WASHINGTON (AP) — In his first speech since the Republican convention ratified his opponent, President Clinton told gays and lesbians in a videotaped message that "we must put aside our differences and focus on what unites us, on our common ground."

Bidding for support in the presidential election, Clinton said his administration "has taken more steps than any other to bring the gay and lesbian community to the table."

The speech was taped before the president went on his summer vacation for showing at the Human Rights Campaign's first national political convention Saturday in Chicago.

"All Americans face a critical

choice this November," Clinton said. "I believe we must put aside our differences and focus on what unites us, on our common ground."

The Human Rights Campaign endorsed Clinton for re-election in February. He has said since then that he opposes same-sex marriages.

In a statement released by the organization, executive director Elizabeth Birch acknowledged the president does not support every issue important to lesbians and gays, but said, "The best friend we have in the presidential campaign already lives in the White House."

Detailing his support, Clinton mentioned his signing an executive or-

See CLINTON, page 18

Speakers Sister urges people to vote

SPOKANE (AP) — The half sister of House Speaker Newt Gingrich says gay people need to vote in greater numbers.

Candace Gingrich, who publicly acknowledged she was a lesbian after her half-brother's rise to power, said gay people must also volunteer to help candidates who are working to end discrimination against homosexuals.

"We're asking them not just to be vocal with their family members and relatives, but to be vocal in the ballot box as well," Gingrich said Saturday.

She was in Spokane on a tour for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay and lesbian political organization. She also appeared at a fundraiser for The Privacy Fund, a state political action committee.

Gingrich said that most politicians, including Newt Gingrich, do not support ending discrimination against gays in the workplace.

"He's out of touch with the rest of the country when it comes to gay and lesbian issues," she said of Newt.

She plans to attend the Republican National Convention to push for homosexual issues.

Maryland's only openly Gay delegate solidly in Clinton camp

by Tom Stuckey

CHICAGO (AP) — Brian Scott won't let his problems with Bill Clinton's record on gays in the military dampen his enthusiasm for nominating the president to a second term.

The only openly gay member of the Maryland delegation to the Democratic National Convention this week, Scott plans to work hard this fall to persuade other homosexuals to vote for the

president.

"I think the record will show that Bill Clinton has the strongest record on civil rights and on gay and lesbian issues of any president in history," Scott said.

He wishes the president had followed through on his pledge to end discrimination against gays in the military and had vetoed the bill banning same-sex marriages.

But as a self-described moderate Democrat and political pragmatist, Scott said he knows Clinton cannot give the gay and lesbian community everything it wants.

"When you are the president and you are running for re-election, you cannot be all things to all people," Scott said.

And when the votes are cast in November, he is convinced gays and lesbians across the country will put aside their disappointments and support the president.

After all, look at the alternative, Scott said.

"If Bob Dole were to win the presidential election, because of the support that he is receiving from the Chris-

tian right, progress on a number of issues, not just issues that affect the gay and lesbian community, would be sidetracked," he said.

Back in Maryland, some of Scott's fellow activists for gay rights agree with his assessment.

Bonnie Berger, also a Montgomery County resident who has been active in the Free State Justice Campaign, said Dole would be a "disaster."

"He's not even willing to embrace the gay Republicans who want to give him money. He stays away from them like they have typhoid fever," she said.

Clinton is "a dilemma because
See MARYLAND, page 21

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Colorado group to oppose City Benefits for Homosexual Partners

DENVER (AP) — The group that originated the controversial Amendment 2, approved by voters but struck down by the courts, will oppose a plan to extend health benefits to homosexual partners of Denver city workers.

Will Perkins, chairman of the Colorado Springs-based Colorado for Family Values, said CFV and a Larkspur-based group called Family Research Institute have joined forces to push for a public hearing when the measure comes to the Denver city council.

"They don't really want to have any public hearing," Perkins said. "They'll ram it through unless we can convince them with our evidence."

Paul Cameron, a director of the Family Research Institute, said the

institute's data show a higher public health risk from homosexual relations than heterosexual unions.

CFV promoted Amendment 2, which barred governments in Colorado from passing laws protecting homosexuals from discrimination. It was passed by Colorado voters in 1992, but blocked by the courts from ever taking effect. The U.S. Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional in May.

The new proposal, approved 5-0 by the Denver Career Service Board last week, would allow gay and lesbian city employees to register their partners as "spousal equivalents" for city-subsidized medical and dental insurance.

The city council will get the pro
See BENEFITS, page 19

A Dangerous Man

by David Clarenbach

In late January, Des Moines (IA) School Board Member Jonathon Wilson announced his sexual orientation at a packed school board meeting broadcast live throughout the state. In an act of uncompromising integrity and courage, Jonathon chose to sacrifice his right to privacy and speak the truth about his life—about our lives—despite a campaign of intimidation, including threats of violence against him and his family. Wearing a bullet-proof vest at the request of law enforcement officials, the 12-year veteran of the School Board said, "I am coming out to educate and so that I can speak with a clearer, unintimidated voice. These death threats show how desperately we need to educate people about tolerance for differences."

Last week, Jonathon Wilson lost his bid for re-election. And he didn't lose because he is gay. He lost because he is a well-respected attorney at a prominent law firm, a fiscal conservative, an outstanding advocate for education, a man of faith, a loving parent, and a good neighbor. You see, Jonathon Wilson epitomizes everything that the radical right wants people to believe gay

men and lesbians aren't. Jonathon's visibility as an openly gay official seriously compromised their ability to demonize the gay and lesbian community as a recruiting and fund-raising gimmick. Because of that, they mounted one of the most sophisticated campaigns ever to target the three-time school board president for defeat.

The rightwing agitator who started the anti-Wilson movement is conservative carpetbagger Bill Horn. Horn was sent to Iowa less than a year ago to open the Midwest office of The Report, the California-based group that distributes the virulently homophobic video "The Gay Agenda." Horn does not live in the Des Moines School District. Rush Limbaugh wanna-be Jan Mickelson harangued against Jonathon and "the gay agenda" on his radio talk show and sent fund-raising letters for The Report to help "stop homosexuals from indoctrinating our children in the public schools."

Rightwing politicians were quick to join in the fray once picklepuss pundit Pat Buchanan took the first shot. Presidential hopeful [read hopeless] Phil

See DANGEROUS, 18

Polls give early leads to Clinton, Collins

BANGOR, Maine (AP) — A Bangor Daily News poll published Friday found President Clinton holding a wide lead over Bob Dole among Maine voters, with Ross Perot's support measuring only in single digits in a three-way race.

In a survey of 612 registered voters who vote regularly in general elections, the Democratic president took 54 percent to 37 percent for the Kansas Republican with the two competing head-to-head.

Choosing among Clinton, Dole and Perot, 51 percent of respondents went with Clinton, 36 percent with Dole, and 5 percent with Perot.

The poll, conducted by telephone from Sunday through Tuesday by Mason-Dixon Political/Media Research Inc.

of Columbia, Md., had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points, the newspaper said.

Clinton's lead over Dole in Maine approximates the findings of a number of national polls.

In an NBC-Wall Street Journal survey released Thursday, Clinton held a 20-point lead over Dole in a two-way election matchup. A CNN-USA Today-Gallup Poll released Thursday found Clinton getting 58 percent and Dole 35 percent.

Perot's showing is far off the 30 percent share he took in Maine's 1992 presidential election, in which he ran second to Clinton by edging the Republican incumbent, George Bush.

In the contest for Maine's open

See POLLS, page 18

Northern Lights MCC to affirm Ordination of pastor

Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church of Augusta will reaffirm the ordination of its pastor, Rev. William Gordon, in a special worship celebration on Sunday, September 29, 1996 at its regular worship hour of four o'clock. The service will be held at the church at 456 Riverside Drive, Augusta. The public is invited to this celebration, which will be followed by refreshments.

Rev. Gordon has been the pastoral leader of Northern Lights MCC since its founding on January 1, 1995. He recently concluded a course in leadership and church policy with Samaritan Institute of Religious Studies in Texas and has been licensed by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The Fellowship is a collection of Christian churches which openly affirm the lives and spirituality of all persons, including those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or questioning.

Rev. Gordon is a graduate of the

Winthrop (ME) public schools and graduated from the University of Maine at Orono in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. Gordon went to Bangor (ME) Theological Seminary and was awarded a Master of Divinity degree in 1983. Rev. Gordon has served previously for one year as pastor of Winthrop Center Friends Church (Quaker) in Winthrop, Maine, as well as serving in various parishes of the United Methodist Church from 1980 through 1993. Gordon withdrew his membership from the United Methodist Church in July of 1993 because church law forbade an openly homosexual person to serve as clergy within the denomination.

Since that time, Rev. Gordon has been working with Northern Lights MCC in its founding and has worked bivocationally for another nonprofit organization. Gordon has three children and lives with his partner, Ron Turner, in Hinckley, Maine. ΔΔ



PAWS opens new pet food distribution center in Portland.

Pets Are Wonderful Support is proud to announce the opening of their new office located in the State Theater Building, 142 High Street, Suite # 330.

A new group of volunteers from Andover College have come forward to help PAWS with its mission of helping keep pets and people with HIV/AIDS together by offering free pet food and supplies along with veterinary referrals to Maine veterinarians.

PAWS was founded in 1995 by the late Jon Piefer and the current executive director Charles Wynott and now has approximately 50 clients throughout Maine, with about 100 pets to supply with donations of pet food, other pet related items, and veterinary care. The most rewarding aspect of PAWS, though, is the love and care given to the pets and their people. There is comfort in knowing that one's pet, which for many AIDS clients represents a best friend, will be taken care of. The assistance given by the volunteers allows the pet and owner to remain together for as long as possible, which they might not otherwise be possible. PAWS helps place pets with client-designated adoptees when the client either goes in the hospital for a period of time or dies.

PAWS will also be expanding their services to include public speaking, providing educational information concerning pet and owner health concerns—including the reminder that AIDS cannot be transmitted between pet and owner. A copy of "Safe Pet Guidelines" can be obtained from the PAWS office.

Many new exciting things are happening with PAWS. The annual Board of Directors meeting, where all new board and Advisory board positions will be filled, will be held on October 1, 1996. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know. Nominations should be received by September 27, 1996, along with a short biography which includes a short statement about

why you would like to be involved with PAWS.

PAWS will hold several fund-raisers to help defray the costs of pet care, including veterinary care. On September 7 we will have the Giant Yard Sale, to be held from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at Andover college, 901 Washington Ave., Portland. On October 25, 1996 we will celebrate Halloween with the 2nd Annual Maine AIDS Alliance Halloween Masquerade Ball, to be held at the Pavilion in Portland—with special host Sharon Rose of WCSH-TV 6 Alive and celebrity judges. November 24 is Charity Night at the Maine Mall. Tickets will be on sale soon from PAWS. From November 26 through Sunday, December 1, 1996 we will commemorate World AIDS Day, Design AID '96 with the Christmas Wreath Auction at the Portland Museum of Art. The wreaths will be designed and donated by local artists. Money will be awarded for the wreath which sold for the highest dollar amount at the Silent Auction. Bidding will be open all week with a reception held on World AIDS Day, December 1, 1996.

For more information on any of these events please call the PAWS office at (207)775-PAWS (7297).

A volunteer training is scheduled for Sept. 4, 1996 at Andover College.

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by Daralyn S.
Maxwell

Over the course of years, all MTF transgendered people fantasize about having a female physique. I am no exception and have, as such, fallen prey to more than a few questionable methods of achieving that. Tabloids have for years offered a variety of surefire ways to develop that much sought after bust. Unfortunately, no creme, exercise or potion can overcome a healthy run of testosterone. Even in my case, where the hormonal balance was more centered than in most males, I never found a way to overcome a hairy chest in favor of a smooth-skinned but breasted figure. Even at this late date, there are ideas that, although farfetched, attract the attention of the desperate who want to believe that anything is possible if they try hard enough. Just like my chance of dieting down to a size 12. Uh-huh!

In the course of my emergence, I was made privy to "The Breast Plan" (TBP), an ingenious attempt to get us to believe that brute strength can triumph over nature. I did, of course, subject

myself to a substantial run of torture before I realized that I had a better chance of pulling my kidneys out of my ears than developing breasts this way. Eventually, I performed an uncharacteristically rash act and consulted my doctor about hormone therapy. No quack, my dear physician, she took quite a while researching the consequences based, not only on the general lay of the land, but weighing my personal medical history as well. At long last, and in conjunction with my therapist (plus the two cents my electrologist put in) I was issued that set of sacred elixirs of assisted femaleness.

Since then, I have noticed that things not only feel different, they have moved around and look different. And so I now feel qualified to analyze the benefits of both methods. I share them here with you, not as an enticement to try hormones, but more as an observation of what happens when you take charge of the situation, and under what circumstances.

On "TBP" I subjected myself to a twice daily regimen of painfully dedicated twisting and massaging of my breasts; on hormones, I am subjected to washing down five tiny pills twice a day

with a desirable liquid (usually chocolate milk).

On "TBP" I was reduced to spending at least one half hour after the exercises with a warm washcloth trying to ease the pain and hoping that I wouldn't develop Carpal Tunnel Syndrome instead of breasts; On hormones, I am forced to spend all the time I save not doing epidermal first aid cleaning my house and planning my future.

On "TBP" I began to feel like a spawn of the Marquis de Sade, inflicting pain beyond reason with no expectation other than the fact that it would hurt regardless; on hormones I feel assured that my physique is going to blossom and the only pain will be the tenderness of swelling breasts.

On "TBP" I found myself checking the mirror on a regular basis to make sure that the bruises and contusions that I inflicted were not turning into full blown welts; on hormones I stand at the mirror bent over to check my progress as determined by gravity (it's going nicely, too).

Lastly, on "TBP" I finally determined that I was more likely to develop breasts using my vacuum cleaner than I

was with those silly exercises; on hormones, I am reduced to weeding out outfits I have outgrown.

This is not a blanket endorsement of hormone use. You need to be ready to dedicate yourself to the future that you dream about, aspire to and yearn for. On the other hand, depending on your threshold of pain, "The Breast Plan" may be just the ticket. After all, it is only exercises and that is good for you. The consequences of pulling your breasts in unnatural directions are far less severe than messing with your chemical balance and ending up with a body characteristic that really changes your life beyond repair. I believed for years that I was not worthy of enjoying life and, as such, the pain fit right into the scheme of things. Now that I have my head on straight, I can see that my future doesn't look all that bad. I say "Pain, Schmain!" I'll take the little pills any day of the week. And twist and pull and groan and wince. Yeh, sure!

Dal Maxwell lives and continues to develop in southern Maine. Comments about this series can be addressed to her at CPR, or by e-mail to dalmax@ime.net . ΔΔ

TASK FORCE, from page 2

counts (MSAs) demonstration project, and the other regards patient confidentiality.

Under the MSAs project, specified individuals can purchase high-deductible health insurance plans while setting aside pre-tax dollars to pay for medical expenses. Activists say the problem with MSAs is that they are most likely to appeal to those who are in good health and who have the money to afford such savings accounts. And the more people who opt for MSAs, the fewer premium dol-

lars are available in the insurance pool to pay doctor and hospital bills, which would result in higher premiums for the sick and poor who are left behind.

Although the bill requires steps to be taken toward the immediate electronic transfer of health information, it does not put into place protections to ensure patient privacy until 1998.

"Despite the positive aspects of the bill, there are still serious concerns regarding affordable health care for all Americans," said Paras. ΔΔ

KILLINGS, from page 2

the Medford case and the Virginia case are not connected, activists fear homophobia as a motivation for both tragedies.

Last December we asked Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General, to monitor the situation in Oregon and lend assistance to local law enforcement in assuring the collection of all information necessary to determine whether or not this was a hate crime. To reinforce our sense of urgency in this case, and to call attention to the constant threat of violence gay people must live under, we

have again notified the DOJ of these recent developments as a follow-up to our previous request for a federal response.

We still may not have all the facts in the deaths of Roxanne and Michelle, and we may never have all the facts. We can not bring back Michelle and Roxanne, but we can keep the legacy of their work alive. We call on people of conscious, community leaders and the media to affirm a community in which acts of intolerance, big or small, will be condemned.

Note: For additional information and local contacts, call Marcy Westerling of the Oregon Rural Organizing Project (503)397-5453. ΔΔ

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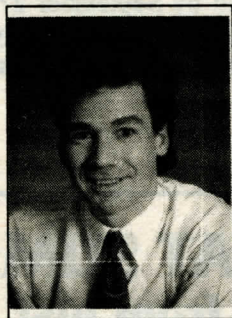
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by Peter J.
Callnan, CPA

Investing is one of the most extensive and complex topics in personal financial planning. The main objective of investing is to generate and accumulate wealth. To begin, you need to have money to invest. It can come from many different places. Sources could be inheritances, gifts, pension distributions, property sales or current earnings, to name a few. Current earnings is probably the most common source. You decide to allocate a portion of your earnings for investment on a regular basis. The next step is to

Money Matters

determine what investment to choose, or, where to put your money. This step can be complicated because it involves assessing several relevant factors. These factors include:

* **Security of the Investment and Earnings:** Determine what the risk of losing part or all of your investment is and how it can be minimized.

* **Rate of Return:** This is what can be earned in relation to the amount invested. A general rule of thumb is the higher the risk of loss the larger the possible rate of return.

* **After-Tax Yield:** Don't forget that investment income is taxable and this will effect the net realized return. Determine the after tax yield by multiplying the rate of return by your top tax rate and subtracting this amount from the original rate of return.

* **Marketability and Liquidity:** Determine how easy it would be to convert your investment into cash if you should want or need to.

* **Diversification:** It is a good idea to

spread your investments around. Generally, the more diversified your investments are, the lower your overall risk of loss.

* **Size of Investment:** It isn't necessary to have a large amount of money to begin investing. A good investment will grow over time if the earnings are reinvested.

These are the types of concepts that must be considered in the investment decision making process. They recur each time an investment is made or changed. They can also be used to manage an investment after it is made as a means of evaluating its performance.

There are many types of investments; real estate, retirement plans, mutual funds, bonds, stocks and even small businesses to name a few. Anything that will increase personal wealth can be considered an investment of sorts. Choosing an investment and starting to invest can be exciting but also frightening. It is very important to do the necessary research and a good idea to get advice from a qualified professional. Be sure to make a decision you will be happy with, after all, it is your money. Good Luck! ΔΔ

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QUEER SCIENCE

Fingerprints and Sexual Orientation

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Fingerprints are the ultimate identifiers. A fetus acquires its unique fingerprint pattern five months before birth, and the pattern remains unchanged from then until death. Just in the United States, millions of fingerprint records now reside in computerized data banks, ready to betray their owners' criminal activities at the flick of a cyber-switch. Heaven forbid that they could also be used to identify queers.

Well, they can't, but a study published in 1994 suggested that there is a connection between fingerprint patterns and sexual orientation. This work was done by Jeff Hall and Doreen Kimura of the University of Western Ontario.

Hall and Kimura counted the number of ridges on the fingers of the left and right hands. Most people have more ridges on the fingers of the right hand than the left hand, but this rightward bias is more marked among men than in women. Thus the "average" pattern among women is closer to left-right equality than it is for men. And among those people who have the less common left-biased asymmetry, women are strongly over-represented.

The Canadian researchers found that gay men are on average left-shifted in their finger-ridge counts, compared with straight men. The shift is far from "diagnostic": in fact, the majority of gay men are still right-biased. But looking at large samples, it is clear that the "average" pattern for gay men is closer to left-right equality than it is for straight men, and that among the minority of men who are left-biased, gay

men are over-represented. Therefore, the researchers argue, processes operating early in fetal life, when sex differences are being set up, have something to do with a man's ultimate sexual orientation. The researchers did not report on lesbians.

In 1995, Geoff Sanders and his colleagues at London Guildhall University in England announced more findings on fingerprints. They tested a large number of children (aged 6 to 8) on tasks at which boys typically do better (throwing) and tasks at which females do better (fast manipulation of nearby objects). They found that the children who had more finger ridges on their right hands did better on the throwing task, regardless of whether they were male or female. Conversely, the individuals who were left-biased in their fingerprint patterns did better on the fast manipulation task, again regardless of their sex. So fingerprint asymmetry is linked independently to three different traits: biological sex, sexual orientation, and cognitive performance.

According to Kimura, this link between bodily asymmetry and mental characteristics is not limited to the fingers. She has reported that men whose right testicle is larger than their left testicle, as well as women whose right breast is larger than their left breast, do better on tasks at which men are usually superior. Conversely, men and women whose testicles or breasts show the opposite, left-biased asymmetry do better on tasks at which women usually excel. No one has yet reported on the tes-

See QUEER, page 19



by Heidi Vanderheiden

"Would you sleep with a woman for a million dollars?" This is what they asked

me, on this semi-professional retreat. They looked at me from all corners of the room. "You don't have to answer," David said quickly, in a protective manner. He knew I was bisexual, as did a few of the others in the room. "Yes," I said. "I would." But I was wondering if I should give a curt answer, 'It would take a lot less than that,' or if I should just say I had, or that I was bi. But I generally don't come out to everyone I work with professionally. It just didn't seem like the quite right time. I don't like to force these issues. And there was a fundamentalist-type person in the room. "That's cool," said Brandon comfortably, as if it was a problem for me to answer honestly. Perhaps I seems insecure because I wasn't sure how much more to say. That was how I knew for sure there were no other queers on the retreat. Or so I thought then.

I had been worried from the start about this retreat, and if I should come out. I assumed everyone would be straight, although you never know. But I was scared of actually spending two full weeks around 13 mainstream young people. I figured I would get horribly home sick, and be crying every night. It's been a while since I've been so out of my element. Part of the reason I love Boston so much is that I have a community of bisexuals to spend much of my free time with. But it turned out all right. I became fast friends with most of the

others quickly, and missed them horribly when I left. Although, I wasn't sorry to get back to my friends in the bi community.

A couple of weeks after the residency was over, when I was corresponding by e-mail with another friend, I put my signature on. You know, the one that says "Bi" in a little triangle. I did so with some trepidation, as I'm never quite sure how straight people will react. Although, she might not even notice it, I told myself; I often ignore signatures. She replied to the message without comment on my little triangle, and I wrote her back. She didn't reply for a few weeks, and I wondered if she might have finally seen the word "bi" in the bottom left corner become uncomfortable. But she called later. I was happy. We got together, and I mentioned being bi in the course of the conversation. A couple of hours later, she said, "That was cool that you said you were bi." I thought she was going to say it was nice that I was comfortable enough with myself to be able to admit that in front of others—a typical reaction, that always makes me feel slightly patronized. "I'm living with a woman," she said. She had always been straight, but had fallen in love with this other woman a couple of years ago, while working with her in a stereo store. She wasn't out to anyone else in the group, and almost none of her school or work friends knew. She still was attracted to men, but was in a long-term, monogamous relationship with a woman she loved deeply. She missed her woman terribly, as my friend was on a summer internship four states away from her lover. Now that was a shock—I wasn't the only bi at the retreat. I guess you just never know.

Heidi has been published in *Soujourner*, *Boston Magazine*, *Loci online Magazine* and the *Boston Bisexual Women's Newsletter*. She facilitates bisexual coming out groups, and helped coordinate Boston's 1995 bisexual conference. ΔΔ



PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

What was the Alpine County Project?

In October 1970, the Los Angeles Times ran a story about a plan by the local Gay Liberation Front (GLF) to establish a gay colony in Alpine County, California. The ensuing brouhaha—which spread to the national media and caused an uproar in the tiny, snow-bound county itself—is a fascinating episode that illustrates the utopianism, the folly, and the media savvy of the early gay liberationists.

The plan originated with underground newspaper reporter Don Jackson, who urged gays to move en masse to California's least populous county, register to vote, and elect an all-gay government which could then use tax dollars to create a gay civil service, community college, museum, hospital, and other public facilities and services.

Jackson's plan was dismissed by many as a quixotic fantasy. But the demographic and legal hurdles to actually setting up a "gay county" were relatively small. The 450-population Alpine County (nestled in the Sierra Nevada 10 miles south of Lake Tahoe) had only 367 registered voters, and new residents

could register to vote after only 90 days. It seemed to some that the plan required only a few hundred gays and lesbians willing to make a three-month experiment.

Meanwhile, many members of the Los Angeles GLF were frustrated by the lack of media attention to their movement. So a group of them decided to use the Alpine County idea as political theater, in hopes of gaining the attention of the Los Angeles Times and other mainstream news outlets. They called a news conference to announce that hundreds of gays and lesbians were already preparing to move to Alpine County. Only the medical reporter from the Times covered the conference, but his article quickly gained national attention, with stories soon appearing in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Time*, as well as on every network news broadcast.

The GLF members continued the hoax, even sending a scouting party up to Alpine County during Thanksgiving 1970 to make "preparations" for the gay colony. Some GLF supporters—men and women—who read about the plan in the papers or saw it on the news took it seriously and even started planning to move.

One lesbian couple from Long Beach told *The Advocate* they were planning to open a "little country store" in Alpine County.

When the long-time residents of Alpine County heard about the plan, however, they were not amused. The chairman of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors noted the cold climate of the region and said that "no fruit is very welcome up in our particular county." The county began to explore the option of merging with the more populous neighboring El Dorado County.


In any event, by February 1971, the plan had lost steam. The GLF issued a statement that they were abandoning Alpine County for a "more temperate county" with better soil and rivers. The media attention had died down, although the GLF had achieved its goal of being taken seriously by the press as a political force, not a medical issue.

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. His first book, *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*, will be published this month by *History for Everyone*. He

can be reached care of this newspaper or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com. ΔΔ

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cprpride@ime.net

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Publishing Editor

Leslie Robinson
Managing Editor
New Hampshire Bureau

Winnie Weir
Advertising Sales Manager
Maine & New Hampshire

**Arts & Entertainment
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Aimsel L. Ponti

Dal Maxwell
Proofreader

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**Jim Wise, Janis Tyderle,
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Martin Swinger
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Suzanne Pyle
"NH Profiles"

David Bianco
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Photographers
Bruce Balboni
Tom Antonik

EDITORIAL- ME



You may have noticed that there have been a few changes in the paper recently. The first change was in the heading on the front page. It used to read "The Newspaper serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine and New Hampshire." Now reads, "Proudly serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine and New Hampshire." We are proud. Proud of the job Winnie Weir, former owner and publisher, did in the past, proud to be able to carry the paper into the future and proud to serve such a fine community.

We've been pleased to present you with Associated Press news to help keep you informed of news happenings the country as well as in Maine and New Hampshire.

In this issue, you'll notice a new column entitled "Queer Science." We have a 3 month subscription to this column. We'd really like to know if you enjoy the column and whether or not you would like to see it continue.

You may have noticed the absence

of Tanya Hathaway's Health column. Tanya returns to us next month with "To Your Health."

Your feedback on the job we're doing here is greatly encouraged and appreciated. We need to know the types of things you'd like to see more of or less of and your response to articles that have been published.

Our major goal here is to serve the community, so we need to know more about what your needs are. Let us know of upcoming events you'd like on the Calendar of Events, tell us about your groups so we can put you one the resource page.

Within the next few months we'll be revamping the Resource page so that it's easier to read. We'll also be including a heading specifically for social groups.

In order to meet our beginning of the month publication goal, we have established deadlines. We need regular contributors to have their articles in by the 10th of the month. Upcoming events and classifieds need to be in by the 20th. News articles and advertisers by the 25th. We welcome submissions of all kinds. Give me a call at the office or send me e-mail at cprpride@ime.net for submission requirements.

We try to provide as much flexibil-

ity as possible, and will try to accommodate late requests. However, we can't guarantee something will get published if it comes in after the 25th.

When I took over CPR, one of my goals for the paper was to have it ready for distribution on the first day of the month. In spite of the best efforts of all the wonderful volunteers and much to my chagrin, I'm learning that holidays, weekends and publishers won't always cooperate with my goals and efforts to have the CPR distributed on the first day of each month. However, I still want to provide the community with a newspaper that comes out consistently at the beginning of each month so I've modified my goal to having the paper ready for distribution within the first two business days of the month, I believe this will be a more realistic and attainable goal. Wish me luck, please.

Many thanks to all of you who stayed with me and worked with me through the transition and to all the contributors whose dedication to the paper has kept them writing these last couple of months. I've said it before, I'll say it again, I couldn't do it without you.

EDITORIAL- NH



by
Leslie Robinson

New Hampshire is home to many lesbian and gay social groups. Trouble is, you wouldn't know it. Getting connected to the gay community in a rural state is not easy, even in these times of increased gay visibility. For the usual reasons—security, lack of money, lack of time—publicity about these social groups can be minimal. This is frustrating to the person looking for a way to meet other gay people.

To ease some of that frustration,

CPR will run short profiles of the various social groups here in the Granite State, starting with this issue. Turn to page 4 to read about Seacoast Gay Men.

If you belong to a group you want to see publicized, call me at (603) 431-4821, and we'll chat.

The idea here works on several levels. By running these profiles, we inform our readers of the social possibilities out there. We also hope to strengthen the groups by boosting membership. And by making organizations from different parts of the state aware of each other, we're aiming to help thread together an unofficial network.

I know how beneficial these groups can be from my own experience. A few years ago a lesbian friend told me about a group for women here in Portsmouth

called Out and About. Most importantly, she told me that it would be a safe place for me to grapple with orientation issues. She was right.

I remember walking into my first meeting. Or wobbling in—I was nervous. But a couple of women worked to put me at ease, for which I'm still grateful. I've remained largely at ease there ever since.

Over the past two years the Out and About meetings have been valuable to me for the simple opportunity they afford of being around other bisexuals and lesbians. I'm glad I wobbled in. ΔΔ

Leslie Robinson

CPR MAIL BAG:

Republican convention compassion???

I was just channel surfing and caught the sight of a lady on the stage with a red AIDS awareness ribbon on her collar. Being curious I stopped to listen. She is Mary Fisher and lost her husband to AIDS and she herself has AIDS. She also brought up to the stage a little girl (about 10) who also has AIDS. Ms. Fisher said "there is no cure and the dying has just begun".

Are they just realizing this?? My heart and my prayers go out to these two as it does to any person or family who is dealing with AIDS. I lost a brother-in-law to AIDS three years ago. As the camera panned the audience you could

see tears in many delegates eyes and tears running down their checks. I just find it so hard to accept the Republicans having compassion for AIDS. Where were they when the Reagan/Bush administrations along with Jesse Helms were keeping such a tight string on the "Ryan White" AIDS Funds ???!!

If you want to see or reads more about this please read "And the Band Played On" by Randy Schultz or rent the video. This is a book that I couldn't read too much of at one sitting. I got so angry with the Republican administration for dragging it's feet in the AIDS area. If they had begun testing Red Cross

blood in the early eighties when they were aware of a problem with the blood supply there would be a lot less losses from it. The only reason they dragged their feet was because they believed it was only a "Gay Disease" and who cared about what happens to them !! (That attitude still continues into the 90's). Nothing against Legion members but look how fast our government responded to the Legionnaires Disease with research and monies.

I am in no way saying that ALL Republican's feel this way, but I just hope that they are sincere and finally waking up to the cause and not just out to win a few votes this November!! I am tired of mourning the loss of my brother-in-law and about 10 friends of mine to this indiscriminating disease !!!

Dwight Whitney, Machias

The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of our earth's resources. Using recycled paper sometimes results in the paper having a toned down or grayish tinge. However, we fee this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does its part to "Color ME Green."



RANT "... inestimable value to society"

by David Cook

The sudden need to assert the preeminence of heterosexual marriage by bashing homosexual couples is a way for second-rate politicians (and second-rate would-be politicians like Carolyn Cosby) to score political brownie points in an election year. Unfortunately, it's also a perfect example of Nero fiddling while Rome burns. Which, in this case, means wasting taxpayers' time and money on new ways to define marriage, while life for American families goes to hell in a hand basket.

Last month, we wrote about the federal "Defense of Marriage Act." Not to be outdone by their counterparts in Washington, Maine's legislature has come up with a "marriage and family protection" bill of its own which asserts the "inestimable value to society" of "traditional monogamous marriage," and makes other claims that are too specious either to defend or challenge. The bill explicitly prohibits gay unions and declares "certain marriages performed in other states are not recognized in this state."

What it does not do is address any of the issues which really are of concern to the survival of Maine's families. Since our politicians would rather not talk about these issues (presumably because they can't be solved just by find-

ing a scapegoat) I am providing a list of them here as a public service:

1. Changes in the American job market that have led to increased unemployment among the working poor. In particular, the exportation of US manufacturing jobs to low-wage countries, a plethora of mergers and acquisitions with their inevitable "downsizing" consequences, the use of the bankruptcy laws to rid corporations of unwanted workers and to create new "leaner, meaner" corporations (which then declare record profits!), and the weakening of labor unions. And, while the government quotes a low aggregate unemployment rate, its statistics do not mention the numbers of peoples no longer even tracked by the system. Nor does it mention that the unemployment rate among young people of color is at a level that rivals the overall unemployment level during the Great Depression.

2. A welfare system that fails to provide recipients with the infra structural supports they need to be able to go out and work (assuming jobs were available).

3. The high cost of health care and the abysmal reality that tens of millions of poor people (many of them kids) have no health care coverage. Couple this with a nationally negative attitude toward mental illness and a statewide reduction in mental health services for the needy.

4. A haves and have-nots educa-

tional system that allows wealthy communities to buy a better education for their kids than poor communities and which has placed the cost of a college education above the level of poor and middle-class families.

5. The use of the federal tax system for the last 15 years as a tool to transfer wealth from the poor to the rich (welfare for the rich) and the prospect that this tendency will only worsen.

6. The ascendancy of a national punish-the-poor attitude with its attendant "welfare reform" movement.

I don't know whether a 50% heterosexual divorce rate and an increasingly-reported level of domestic violence and abuse of children belong in the above list or are consequences of it. Likewise the increasing number of children born into one-parent families (or even no-parent families). But these data certainly deserve mention in the context of the belief that, only in heterosexual families, can a healthy environment be found for child rearing.

Make up your own list - there are plenty of real problems making life difficult for American families in general and impossible for some families. And if you think that life for those families will improve one iota by preventing gay couples from enjoying the legal and economic benefits of secularly sanctioned marriage, then you need to have your head examined. ΔΔ

"Voting Against Clinton"

by Richard D. Mohr

I will be voting for Bob Dole in November. I will do so not because I think Dole is such a good guy on gay issues—though at least he is struggling with them—but because I think Clinton deserves to be punished for his treatment of gays. Indeed Clinton has been uniquely and distinctively evil in this regard.

He is uniquely evil in his role as President of the United States and leader of the First World. When he puts his imprimatur on anti-gay legislation, he impresses the whole of Western Civilization's condemnation upon gays. No senator, no televangelist, no pundit can do that. Only the President can.

Clinton has been distinctively evil, because the anti-gay legislation he has been calling into being attacks gays' very dignity and moral agency, not just our interests and happiness. When Clinton's apologists say that the President has simply been "disappointing" on gay issues, they misrepresent the range of values involved in the President's actions. I'm disappointed when I fail to win the lottery or when my taxes or the price of milk goes (sic) up. I'm disappointed when my happiness and interests are not advanced in ways I reasonably hope they might be.

Clinton's actions are worse in kind. In signing Don't-Ask-Don't-Tell into federal law and in craving to sign the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, Clinton has degraded and humiliated gays. Don't-Ask-Don't-Tell institutionalizes the degradation of gays in the very instrument by which the country takes the

measure of citizenship—the military. The policy's specific form is that of a shaming ritual by which society designates things, like excrement or pus, as loathsome and abject, as the unmentionable, the unspeakably gross. The policy enshrines the view that within the public sphere, gays are less than human, gays are scum.

DOMA does the same for the private sphere. Marriage is the institutionalized ideal governing the realm of body and bedroom, hearth and home. In barring gays from marriage and military service, Clinton tells the world that there is no proper place for gays either in the public sphere of citizenship or the private sphere of family life. Clinton's actions establish gays as exiles in their own country.

In protecting Clinton at the ballot box, one does two things. First, by placing one's interests imminently at risk for the sake of what is right, one advances one's dignity, the very value Clinton would deny gays. In this way, one acts like Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil disobedients who put themselves at risk of arrest in order to let their human worth shine forth as a moral witness to what is right.

Second, protest votes aim at the future—the next election and the one after that. Protest votes tell political parties, "We will not be taken for granted. You have to do better at fielding candidates." Remember that the problem with being taken for granted by someone is not that his enemies will write you off, but that he will. This is what Clinton has done to gays. After

getting the endorsement of the Human Rights Campaign, Clinton turns right around and tells the country how eager he is to sign DOMA "to strengthen American families."

For a protest vote to work as moral witness, one needs to tell people what one is doing—friends, political organizations, exit-poll takers. Doing so will require courage. For in general gays have debased themselves for so long at the altar of the Democratic Party that they have lost any sense of themselves and their values. The Human Rights Campaign has groveled under the Democratic table for crumbs so long that it has become a dog. David Mixner says he is going to vote for Clinton even though he compares his doing so to a battered wife returning to the husband she knows will batter and humiliate her again. Something is obviously wrong here. We can do better than this.

Still, in lifting our consciousness, rising up from these debased stations, and voting in protest, gays will appear as traitors in some quarters and be dismissed as crazy in others. But that is only because so many gays have been snookered for so long by smiling devils speaking the words we wanted to hear when words were the only thing on the political menu.

Now is the perfect time for gay protest votes on the federal level. Substantial national legislative reform on gay issues is a generation off. It will take that long for the cultural transformations now underway around gay issues to soak into the interstices of national politics. As a guide, remember

**Community
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Reporter**
P.O. Box 178
Saco, Maine
04072
E-mail: cprpride@ime.net
Phone: 207/282-4311
Fax: 207/282-4551

Our Mission

Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinion by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people of Maine and New Hampshire. CPR strives to increase awareness and acceptance of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of infusing the word community with renewed meaning and vitality. CPR pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

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Views and opinions, political and personal, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the publisher. Community Pride Reporter may endorse candidates we feel represent our community most completely. Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has significantly detracted from the clarity of information presented, the Publisher may consider printing a clarification at her discretion. No assumptions should be made concerning the sexual self-identification of either contributors or advertisers.

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CPR encourages readers to write! Material submitted for publication must be legibly signed and include address and/or phone number for verification. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publisher's discretion. If requested, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons.

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that the federal Civil Rights Act, twenty-two years in the making, passed in 1964 only after it had the support of 85% of all Americans and over 50% of every sector and demographic category in America.

In a protest vote, one looks to the future, but must be willing to live with what one's vote might effect in the present. Gays can live with Dole. He is no more conservative than George Bush. And George Bush was better on gay issues than Clinton has been. He wrote anti-gay legislation out of existence—when in 1990 he signed bill lifting the

See AGAINST, page 19

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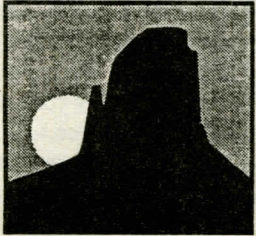
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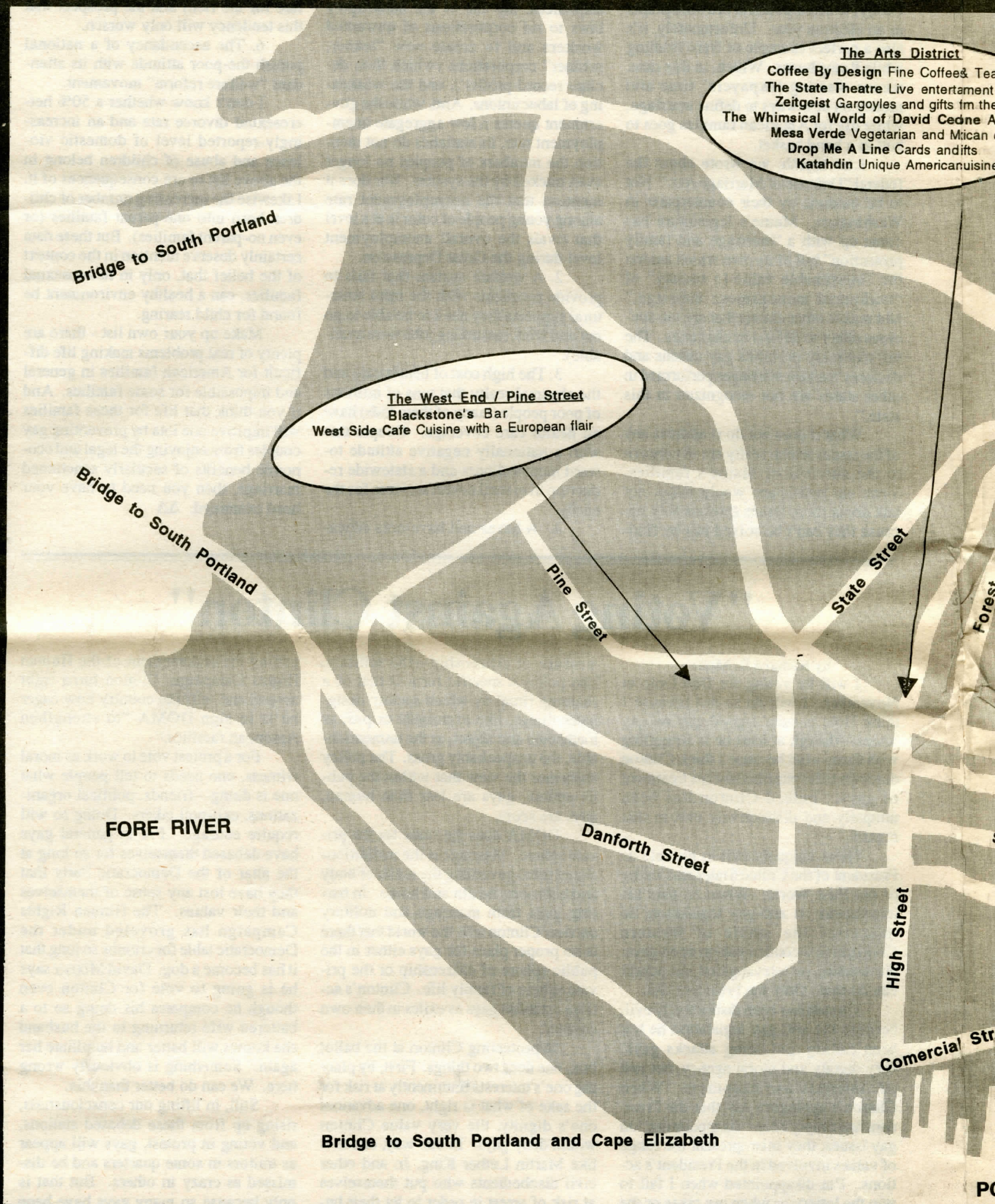
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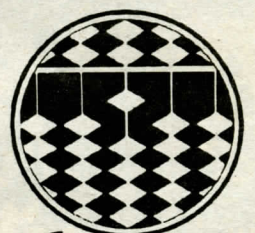
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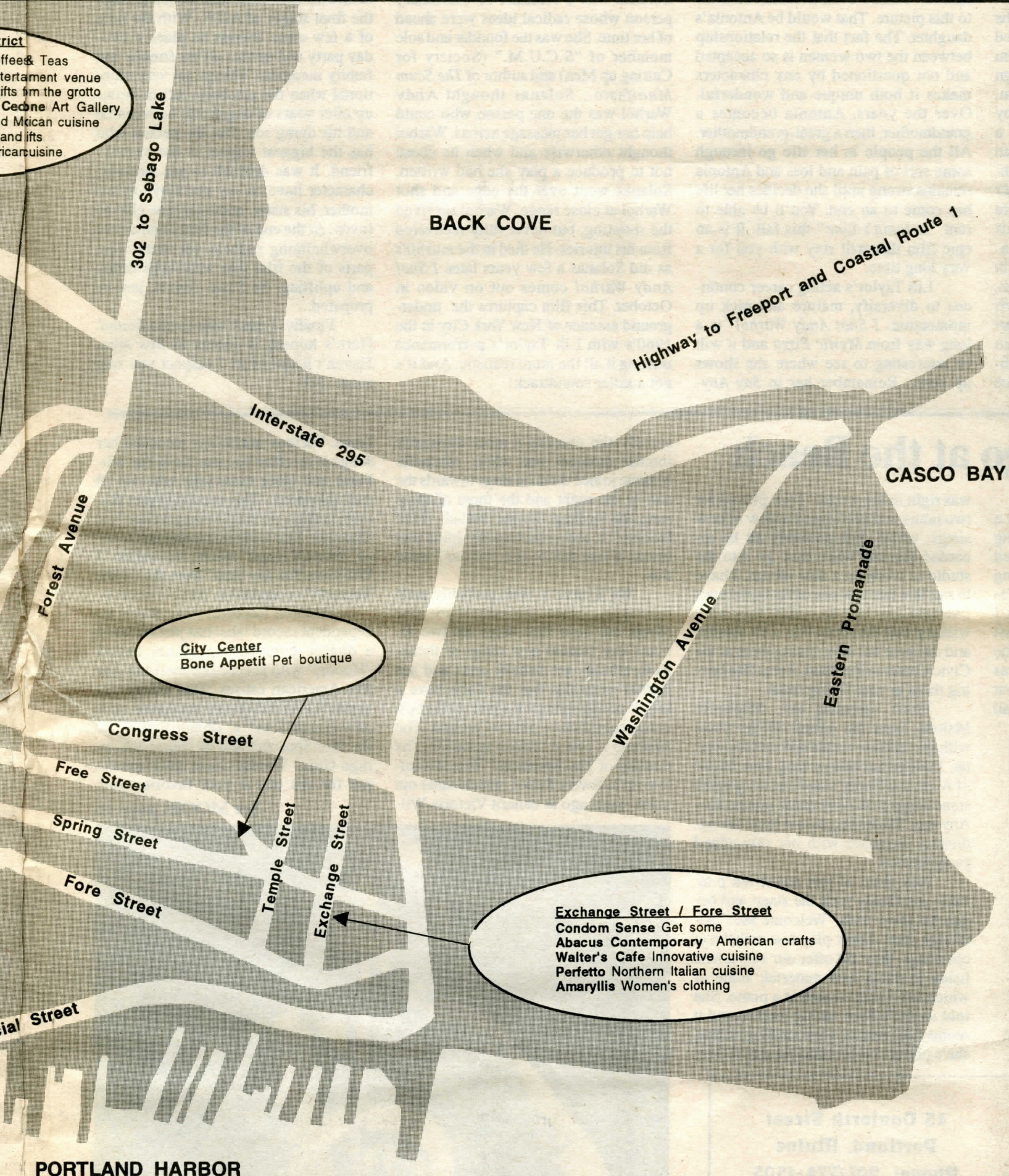
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Arts & Entertainment



by Aimsel L. Ponti
Antonia's Line is one of the best films I've ever seen. It made two appearances at *The Movies* over the past couple of months and is scheduled

for an October video release. This film won the Academy award for best foreign film this year and with good reason. *Antonia's Line*, written and directed by Marleen Gorris, tells the story of a woman and follows her life for the span of about 30 years. If you thought Richard Dreyfuss' character in *Mr. Holland's Opus* left his mark in the world you're certain to feel that ten fold with regards to Antonia. This film stretches and caresses and touches on every emotion in the book. Passion, desire, revenge, love, hope, loss, and devotion are a few. I left the theater with a smile and a heavy heart and look forward to experiencing it again on video. Antonia, along with her daughter, return to the village that was once

home to say a last good-bye to her dying mother. Left with a farmhouse and many crops, Antonia decides to stay. The bond between mother and daughter is strong and together they grow and create an existence that is not dependent on men and yet is nurturing to those folks in the village who have no one else to turn to. There's even a lesbian element to this picture. That would be Antonia's daughter. The fact that the relationship between the two women is so accepted and not questioned by any characters makes it both unique and wonderful. Over the years, Antonia becomes a grandmother, then a great-grandmother. All the people in her life go through some sort of pain and loss and Antonia remains strong until she decides her life has come to an end. You'll be able to rent "*Antonia's Line*" this fall. It is an epic film that will stay with you for a very long time.

Lili Taylor's acting career continues to diversify, mature and pick up momentum. *I Shot Andy Warhol* is a long way from *Mystic Pizza* and it will be interesting to see where she shows up next. Remember her in *Say Any-*

thing? Her character was the one who wrote all the songs about her two-timing boyfriend Joe. In Robert Altman's *Ready to Wear*, Taylor played a lesbian photojournalist, and her recent role in *I Shot Andy Warhol* is, besides the starring role, a superb continuation of choosing parts of unusual characters. Valeria Solanas was a feminist revolutionary person whose radical ideas were ahead of her time. She was the founder and sole member of "S.C.U.M." (Society for Cutting up Men) and author of *The Scum Manifesto*. Solanas thought Andy Warhol was the one person who could help her get her message across. Warhol thought otherwise and when he chose not to produce a play she had written, Solanas went over the edge and shot Warhol at close range. Warhol survived the shooting, but never fully recovered from his injuries. He died in the mid 80's as did Solanas a few years later. *I Shot Andy Warhol* comes out on video in October. This film captures the underground essence of New York City in the 1960's with Lili Taylor's performance making it all the more realistic. And it's got a killer soundtrack!

And a few brief movie notes...

The newest lesbian film to come through Portland was *Devotion*. Although it was only so-so, it is definitely one to see on video. Speaking of video, now available, if you're in the mood for a very sad yet moving film is *It's My Party*. It stars Eric Roberts who decides to end his life rather than suffer through the final stages of AIDS. With the help of a few close friends he plans a two-day party and invites all his friends and family members. Things get very emotional when the alcoholic father shows up after years of negativity between he and his dying son. But the person who has the biggest impact is the ex-boyfriend. It was difficult to see Roberts' character have to say good-bye to his mother, his sister, and everyone else he loves. At the end of the film I had a very overwhelming sadness yet there were parts of the film that were both funny and uplifting. So I say, rent it, just be prepared...

Finally, I can't wait to see *Bound*. Here's hoping it comes to this area. Haven't heard of it? I suspect you will soon. ΔΔ

Mood Indigo at the Beach

By Aimsel L. Ponti

Some might think that being in a mood indigo means that you're feeling sad and blue. That's not the type of mood I'm referring to and if you were among the 1500 at Hampton Beach's Club Casino on August 12th you know what I mean. Indigo Girls played the NH coast the day after their appearance at the Newport Folk Festival. The show was quite sold out and the line very long, but when Amy and Emily took the stage all

was right in the world. They played for two hours and performed a slew of new songs, which will probably all be recorded this fall when they go into the studio to work on a new album. I have to say, that this was one of the best shows I've seen the Girls do. I think they were wishing that the room was a lot smaller and intimate but after seeing them at the Civic Center in Portland, it was like having them in your living room.

Their opening act, Michelle Malone, blew the rafters off the place with her intense vocals and electric guitar. Malone has been a long time friend of Amy and Emily's and she co-penned some songs with Amy many moons ago. Anyway, Michelle got and kept the audiences attention with her raw-edged performance.

And then, at just about ten p.m. Amy and Emily took the stage and began the show with "Welcome Me." Although they didn't play too many real old songs, they did offer our ears a first listen to much new material, some of which had Emily seated at a piano. She told us she's been taking lessons and it seems that, despite a few small mistakes, she's pretty comfortable playing it. Per-

sonally the evening's most musically intense moment was when Michelle Malone joined them on stage towards the end of the night and the three of them sang the Rolling Stones' ballad "Wild Horses." It sent a chill up my spine that traces of can still be felt even as I write this.

We'll have to wait probably until next Spring to hear the Indigo Girls new album but until then there are two albums that feature new songs of theirs. Both albums are benefit ones and are further examples that the Girls have a knack of appearing on some of the best damn compilation albums around. The first one is called "Sweet Relief II- The Gravity of The Situation." This is a follow up to Sweet Relief, which came out a few years ago to benefit Victoria Wil-

liams. Various musicians recorded her songs in an effort to raise funds for Williams and other musicians who are ill and uninsured. This second album features songs of singer/songwriter Vic Chestnut. The Girls do a haunting cover of "Free Of Hope" which, not unlike "I Will Give You My Skin" from the "Tame Yourself" compilation, has horns on it.

Daemon Records, Amy Ray's independent record label has just released a double compilation album called "Honor," with proceeds benefiting Native American causes. This album has many Native American musicians on it as well as acts such as Bonnie Raitt, Toad the Wet Sprocket and of course the Indigo Girls. Worthy cause, great music-ask for this one at your favorite cool,

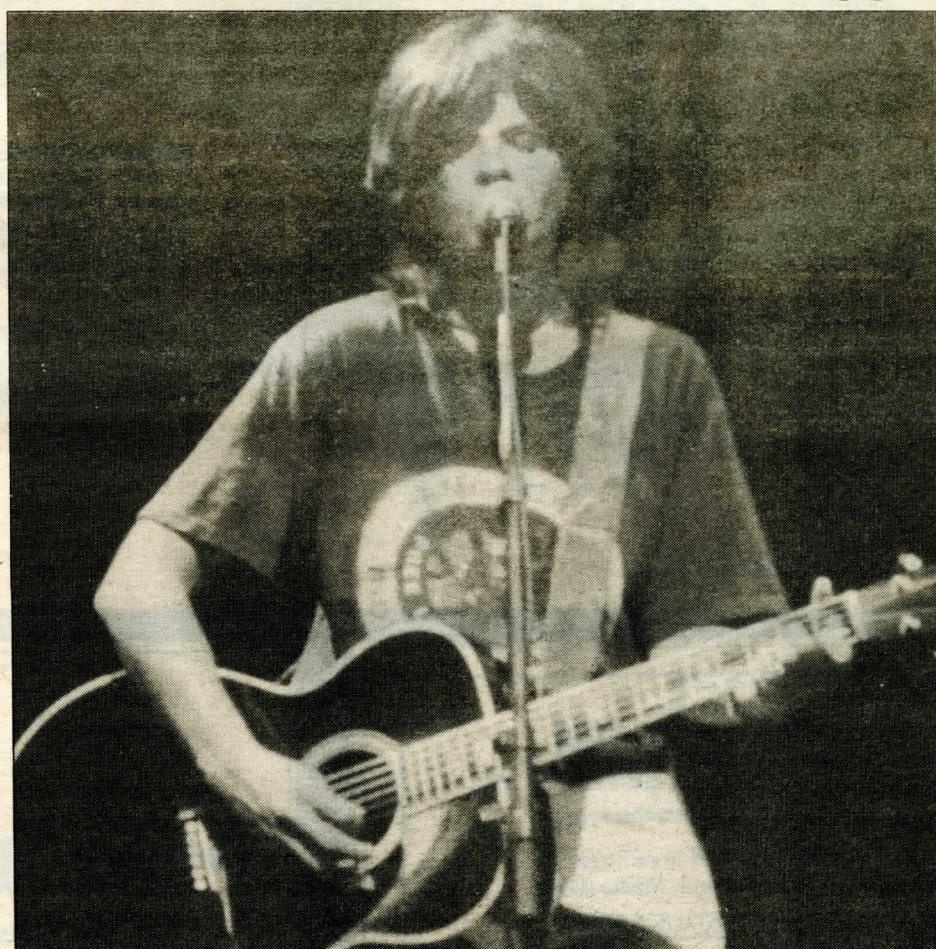
See MOOD, page 15

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Nields of Gold

by Aimsel L. Ponti

What? You haven't heard of the Nields? You haven't seen Katrina Nields wail like a banshee and dance like she's possessed? You haven't heard Nerissa Nields play guitar and join her sister in vocal rhapsody? Fear not, it's not too late, the Nields will be around for a while, especially if they continue putting out excellent records, like their newest "Gotta get Over Greta." (Razor & Tie Music).

First, this is who they are: Katryna Nields-vocals; percussion, Nerissa Nields-vocals, guitars Dave Howerdrums, percussion Dave Chalfant-bass David Nields-guitars.

Or you could simply say; two sisters and three guys named Dave.

By the way, David Nields married Nerissa and took her last name. And if that isn't sweet enough, their first date was going to see "The Princess Bride." Perhaps information you don't really need to know, but I like it.

The Nields recently played at the Stone Coast Brewing Company in Portland to a very appreciative crowd and I was able to sit down with them during dinner and chat about what it's like being in such a cool band.

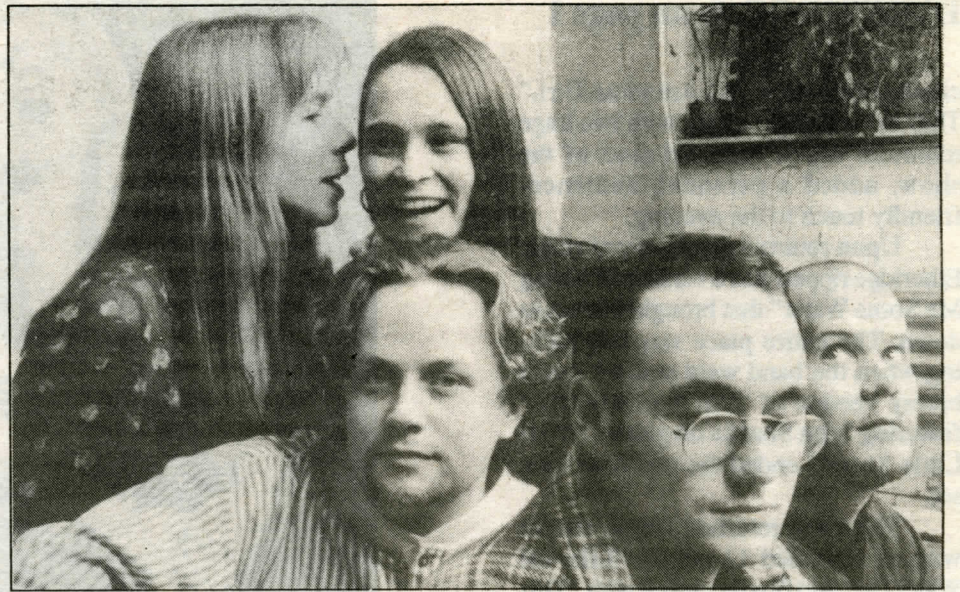
David Nields explained some of the bands history. After Katryna graduated from college, she, Nerissa and David all moved to Williamstown, MA. and they officially were the trio collectively called The Nields. They played in

the basement of a sandwich shop to virtually no one and then landed a job at an inn playing for four hours on Sunday and Monday nights. "This was sort of our training ground for performing."

Then, David got a teaching job in Connecticut and the three moved to Windsor. More basement gigs... open mic nights... and they recorded an album on their own called "66 Hoxsey Street," named after their address in Williamstown. By now, the Nields had started to get a following.

In Northampton, MA. they recorded "Live At The Iron Horse." At this point, in 1993, they called Dave Chalfant up and he joined the band as bassist. And after the recruitment of drummer Dave Hower, they went back into the studio and recorded "Bob on the Ceiling." Hower, however, was still playing in another band. After a summer of David Nield's cousin Kevin playing drums, Hower decide to leave his band and become an official member of the Nields. "That's really when we became the Nields, September of '94." Razor&Tie Music signed them, and they released their best record to date "Gotta Get over Greta." Currently, they are on a U.S. tour, already putting over 100,000 miles on their van...

"What was really remarkable was when we travelled around the country and we would go to places where we had never been before and people would



The Nields

show up for our concerts," explained Katryna Nields. The Nields did play at Raoul's a few years ago to an o.k. crowd, and the show at The Stone Coast drew a very decent crowd. Easily over a hundred people. And a lot of these folks danced in the area in front of the stage which Katryna referred to as "the moat." The band played two sets of music, performing many songs off the "Greta" album and a cover of the Beatles "Lovely Rita" That reminds me, the Nields hope that Ben and Jerry's will some day name a flavor after them; "Strawberry Nields Forever."

Besides being talented songwriters and musicians, the Nields are a fun band whose concerts are quirky, memorable and loaded with great music.

You can find "Gotta Get Over Greta" wherever cool records are sold. "Bullet Proof", "Cowards" and the title track are personal faves, with the whole album being the kind of thing you want to hear again and again.

And here I sit, right before we go to press with this very last minute concert update. The Nields will be playing along with Jane Siberry on Saturday, September 14th in Northampton, MA (a.k.a. Lesbianville USA).

For ticket info you can call Yes, it's a four hour drive but I'm gonna do it. After all, we know the Nields rule. The fact that they are playing with another musical genius, the exquisite Jane Siberry is a musical moment of perfection. Just Drive... ΔΔ

Libby Roderick Earth-based, lyrical folk for the 90s

by Lucy

Libby Roderick loves the Earth and has great faith in human beings, as well. Her songs reflect both of these beliefs. During her appearance at Jonathan's in Ogunquit, on August 2nd, Libby managed to charm the audience with her sincerity, humor and wonderful lyrics.

Like Holly Near, Libby spends a lot of time between songs talking politics-feminist politics, green politics and liberation politics, using personal, often funny stories to get her point across. On this occasion, she mentioned a girls' camp she had visited the evening before and how encouraging it had been to see that they all wanted to be Olympic competitors, with a somewhat smaller number wanting to be a future U.S. President. She pondered what these responses to her questions showed about



the state of feminism today and for our hopes for the future.

Libby sang a nice mixture of tunes. She included some of her strongest songs, including "If the World Were My Lover" (title cut of her second album), a sensuous love song to the planet, and "Stay Low to the Ground" about knowing one's roots. "Holy Thing to Love" and "Go" were both about how part of real loving must be letting go of the loved one. She also did some topical songs, notably "The Way We Never Were" about the conservative Right's

desire to turn back the clock, along with some strong new songs. Especially moving was one entitled "Good-bye Old Friend" in which she poetically captures the internalization of war experiences and how we must come to terms with them in order to survive and move on. She finished with two of her best old standards "America, America" and "How Could Anyone," a gentle chant celebrating the loveliness of each of us. Altogether, this was an inspiring and message-filled evening with this Alaskan singer. Catch her when she comes by again, and check out her recordings.

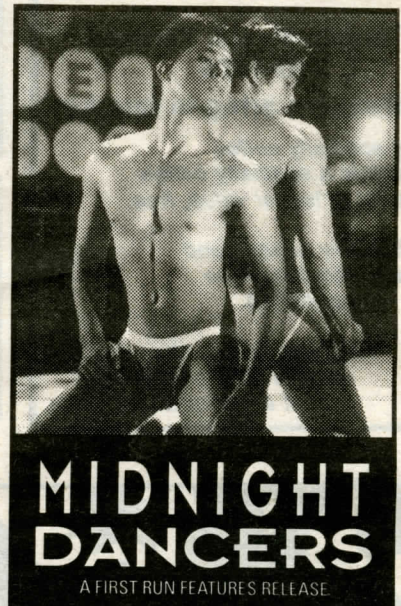


Emily Saliers on stage at Club Casino.

MOOD, from pg 14

independent record store...

The Indigo Girls have been playing together for over ten years. Their music continues to evolve and their songwriting brilliance remains intact. Their fans usually have either an Amy preference or an Emily one, but most agree that only together is the essence of the Indigo Girls really captured. ΔΔ



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ETHERIDGE, from page 1

cluding the rocker "All American Girl." This second stage, along with two huge monitors which captured most of the show, added a personal, audience-friendly touch to the evening.

Upon returning to the front stage, Etheridge ripped into a version of "Bring Me Some Water" that brought the house down. The entire place was still rocking when the band went straight into a bluesy version of "I'm the Only One" featuring John Shanks on guitar. "Your Little Secret" ended the two hour long set.

The band returned for an encore with an extended 12 minute "Like the Way I Do" and finally closed with "This War is Over."

Although a great show, Etheridge played nothing from her album *Never Enough* and noticeably missing were favorites like "Similar Features," "Chrome Plated Heart," and "Testify."

What originally drew me to Etheridge were her honesty in portraying relationships and her ability to transform that honesty into lyrics that left me wanting more, not running for cover.

Balboni Photo



After seeing Jonathon Brooke at Raoul's, one of CPR's writers penned the following about someone in the audience.

Under the Ceiling Fan and Dreaming (the Raoul's poem)

She sat under a ceiling fan,
it's breeze blowing her glance towards
my table
her eyes, dark and quite mysterious
with hair, short and sweet

On the rare occasion that the man
a few feet over would move,
then my view would suddenly be perfect
it's then that shyness kept my eyes
on the stage, on the floor, anywhere else.

Still, we heard the same music
shared the same space
and breathed the same air.

A clear memory of her face
is stored away for safe keeping
until the next time our eyes meet

I'll still look away, but maybe not so
quickly

Under the ceiling fan and dreaming
my glance towards her.
in a moment
on a thursday
her eyes were mine.

Erica Wheeler in Concert at StreetCar Cafe

Singer/songwriter Erica Wheeler will be in concert at StreetCar Cafe on Friday, September 27. Wheeler is a nationally touring singer who was the 1995 winner of the Rocky Mountain Folks National Singer-songwriter Competition. She has just recorded her third CD, "The Harvest," due to be released early this fall. One writer for the Cleveland Plain



Dealer has said of her "... the world is still a beautiful mystery to her. She finds poetry in small towns, ramshackle hotels and cheesy diners... She takes these experiences and weaves them into magical songs that tap into some universal need, thoughts of how things ought to be." Erica has opened for Indigo Girls, Shawn Colvin, the Story, and others. Tickets for the 7:30 pm concert are \$5. For more information, call 207-743-2072.

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Last Minute Music News...

By Aimsel

It looks like "Their Little Secret" is out. The news broke nationwide that Melissa Etheridge and Julie Cypher are having a baby. Their little Secret no longer... Julie's the one who's going to have it. Isn't that cool? Yeah for them! And did you see Melissa at the Civic Center? She's still got it... And, have you seen her new video for "Nowhere to Go?" Not only did Julie direct it, but she's in it with Melissa. The video is her best to date. It shows the struggle of two women who are obviously in a relationship. It's set in the desert and ends with Julie and Melissa holding each other on the edge of a cliff looking into a canyon.

"Who Will Save Your Soul?" Jewel will... I just saw her live in Hampton Beach and the woman, of I think maybe 20 years, was amazing. Her album, "Pieces of You," is also amazing. For someone so young she writes very intelligent songs, and fun ones as well. And she can sing like nobody's business. She also plays guitar and does this yodeling thing that drove the crowd wild. She may have gone to the Tori Amos school of fashion, but hey, that's o.k. Jewel Rules!

Sarah McLachlan continues to make us wait for a new album. I'm not sure what the deal is with that. However, her Canadian label, Nettwerk has just released "Sarah McLachlan: B-Sides and Rarities." Because it's an import it'll cost around \$20 or so, but if you like Sarah, you can't live without it. It has tons of music on it, including her cover of XTC's "Dear God" and the old Billie Holiday one, "Gloomy Sunday." There's also a slew of cool re-mixes of songs we know and love like "Possession." But, the best track on this album is a new one. I remember her singing it at a State Theater show last year. It's called "Full of Grace" and I have adopted it as a personal theme song for the summer of '96. I'm not telling you what the words are, if you're a Sarah fan you'll find out soon enough.

And one last music note... The latest single from the Tori Amos album, "Boys For Pele" is "Hey Jupiter." This is a personal favorite and the single has several b-sides including Tori singing "Over The Rainbow." Yes, Tori Amos does Judy Garland. All I can do is sigh as "Over the Rainbow" is one of my most treasured songs. ΔΔ

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by Martin Swinger

I suggested last month that I write descriptions of out musicians in our area and immediately got a response from a fellow on coastal Maine who agreed to be my first (victim?) subject. Again, the idea here is not to provide a dating service, that's what the personals are for. My point here is to get the information out that there are out working professional musicians who are interested in connecting with others. There are also interested amateurs and semi professionals looking for comraderie, support and feedback. This article is for anyone looking to make connections with other out musicians.

Tim Wallace, a pianist/organist/choir director/choral and orchestral composer, is currently music director for a church near Boothbay Harbor. He's worked as accompanist for the Portland

Ballet and for the Joffrey Ballet and has a dream of one day owning his own interdisciplinary arts performance gallery. He enjoys bringing instrumentalists into the church for special occasions and supports a policy of paying professional musicians for their work instead of expecting them to donate their services to one benefit after another. (I like this guy already!) Tim is looking for other classically trained instrumentalists and choral writers to collaborate with and would enjoy collaborating with the Gay Men's Chorus, Women in Harmony and other choral groups.

Tim says being a gay church employee has not caused any repercussions in particular. He has not joined the church he works for in order to maintain a professional standard and because that particular denomination does not view gay people as equals in the eyes of God. He has made no point of "coming out" in the church though he's made no point of hiding it either. Anyone curious enough to ask gets an honest answer

and the information has gotten mixed responses - rumor says one member quit coming because of who he is, while another member insisted he meet her friends, the male couple down the road. Generally he feels the church supports him but doesn't want any details about his private life.

Tim is originally from Dallas, Texas but has lived in Maine for five years now. His biggest complaint is rural Maine and the isolation of not having "family" nearby. In order to remedy this he is going to Symposium this year and will be attending Matlovitch Society Meetings in an attempt to develop a stronger sense of community. I turned him on to a couple of people I know around Boothbay area and hopefully some of you in the area will make an effort to reach out to him. Write a note to Tim in a sealed envelope and mail that to me in care of CPR. I'll see that he gets it. He's in his early 40's, is single, and is a lively and fun conversationalist.

Next month I'll introduce you to another out musician and hope that this starts making connections happen to draw our musical community together. If you would like to be introduced in this way please contact me for an interview. Confidentiality will be respected as you wish. If you are just interested in live music and wish to be a supporter (Goddess Bless You!) drop me a line and I'll put you on my mailing list for upcoming events. Meanwhile, reach out to those "family" members around you, the better you know your community the richer you will be. Enjoy this last leg of the summer and KEEP SINGIN' OUT!

Martin Swinger is an out performer of traditional, contemporary and original folk music who is currently working on his second album of Gay Folk Music. His first gay album SINGIN' OUT is available at A Different Light Bookstore in NYC and by mail. You may contact Martin in care of CPR. AA



By Paul T. Bernard

Well, it's over... summer, that is. And it wasn't much of a summer - just a few days at the end of August. Now that we're all worried about the tan that we never got - what do we do about it? Fortunately, autumn is a great time to work on that tan - just not here. Actually, autumn is one of my favorites times to travel. As of Labor Day, all the kids go back to school. Autumn becomes the off-season for many places.

You have many choices of places to go to enjoy the warm sunshine. Florida in October is one of my favorites - the weather is still warm, the beaches and attractions are deserted, and many good deals abound. For instance, hotel rates for October in Orlando hit the bottom. You can get a hotel room at the Quality Inn International Drive for about \$25-40 per night. If you go to Disney World, you'll find that there are very few

lines at any of the rides and you don't have to put up with summer humidity.

TNT/Haley Vacations and GWV, both tour operators out of Boston, offer discounted rates for their Caribbean and Mexico packages. For example, you can get a air and hotel package in Cancun for about \$450 per person for a 7-day package. Similar packages are available to Aruba, St. Martin, St. Thomas, Bonaire, Anguilla, etc.

Autumn has been one of the regular times that airlines put airfares on sale. Expect to see airfare sales about every other week. However, don't wait for bargain rates for Thanksgiving and Christmas, unless you can be very flexible in your travel dates. (Most seats for travel on the Sunday after Thanksgiving have already been sold).

Airfares to Europe start to drop for travel after the 15th of October. This makes it a great time to travel to Europe. And again, you won't have to put up with the crowds of summer. For example, if you want to travel to London during November/December, you can go as

cheaply as \$400 round-trip. Or travel to Germany for \$480 round-trip.

For those interested, I am putting together a London Theater/Shopping Tour for December 1-8. Final package prices are still being worked on, but this could be a great time to do some shopping and catch a few plays in London. I was in London last year at this time and had a great time shopping at Harrod's - and even got to see the London Symphony perform Handel's Messiah at St. Paul's Cathedral for FREE! If you are interested, give me a call and I'll see that you get details of the package.

SHORT TAKES: Washington, DC is the place to be Columbus Day weekend. The Names Project's AIDS Quilt will be on display on the Mall next to the Washington Monument. In addition, the whole town will be having all sorts of activities for gays and lesbians, including a candlelight march to the Lincoln Memorial. Call me for more details.

Anyone looking to travel to Florida for the February vacation should

make their air reservations now. Most flights for Saturday and Sunday travel have already been sold out, but there are still some limited seats available.

Southwest Airlines begins service out of Providence starting in late October. They will be offering service to Cleveland, Chicago, and several points in Florida. Florida prices are slated at \$99 each way. Delta Air Lines will be launching Delta Express - offering cheap, nonstop service from Boston to several points in Florida - with prices to match Southwest Airlines. That service will start October 1st. Don't expect any frills on these flights - just peanuts and soft drinks - no meals.

Speaking of meals, airplane meals continue to be the biggest complaint of the flying public. We used to joke about airplane food - chicken, steak, and fish dinners that weren't very big - but at least they were a hot meal. Now, don't expect anything more than a small sub with a cookie and soda. And that's only on flights of more than 2 hours. If it's under 2 hours, it's the peanuts and soda routine. I would really encourage people to complain to the airlines or be prepared for bringing your own food on the plane.

Paul T. Bernard is the owner of Adventure Travel, Inc. in Scarborough.

Out of Town

Just Married?

Gay and lesbian couples who have celebrated a wedding/commitment ceremony are cordially invited to share their experiences for an upcoming book. Author Ed Karvoski Jr. is currently interviewing couples from coast to coast, discussing everything from warm and fuzzy moments to Wedding Day disasters.

As a comedy writer, Karvoski has written for Jay Leno and radio deejays at CBS, NBC, and the BBC. As an entertainment journalist, his work has appeared in national magazines such as The Advocate, Out, Poz, and The Guide.

He has also written for numerous regional publications, including Frontiers, Bay Windows, Windy City Times, Southern Voice, Front Page and Gay People's Chronicle.

Karvoski is the author of A Funny Time to Be Gay, a book honoring openly gay and lesbian stand-up comics, which will be published by Fireside/Simon & Schuster.

Wedded couples who would like to be contacted for an interview should write: Ed Karvoski Jr., 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., #109-488, West Hollywood, CA 90069. AA

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Dole's mate Kemp: the stories abound

by Peter O'Shea

Jack Kemp, the man chosen by Republican Bob Dole to be his running mate in the November US presidential elections, has a gay past - at least that's the speculation resurrected by numerous news reports in the US this week.

While the nation's two largest gay lobby groups, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), issued a joint statement condemning Kemp's anti-gay record in politics, others were speculating that Kemp's record in bed is anything but anti-gay.

Associated Press this week ran a story in which one of Kemp's former campaign managers was asked about a report dating back nearly 30 years that Kemp participated in a wild gay party at a ski cabin, which he partly owned with several gay men, in Lake Tahoe.

The story, which Charles Black who managed Kemp's campaign in 1988 dismissed as "totally unfounded", dates back to 1967 when Kemp worked for then-California Governor, Ronald Reagan.

After the party the New York Times ran an article reporting that a "homosexual ring" was running Reagan's office. At least one of Reagan's aides was fired. Later, in the mid-1980s, Newsweek ran a report in which Kemp maintained his investment in the cabin was strictly a business arrangement.

Then in 1986 the San Diego Union-Tribune reported that an interview the week before on NBC's Today

Show, in which Kemp was asked whether he had ever had a homosexual experience, had prompted his handlers to screen future interviews and "bar any that go into the old slanders against him".

Black told AP this week the Lake Tahoe story was "a piece of poison". "Every reporter or news organization that ever looked into it concluded it was totally unfounded," he was quoted as saying.

But that does not seem to be the case. The San Francisco Independent and the New York gay newspaper LGNY also reported this week that Kemp, 53, who is married with four children, is rumored to be gay.

LGNY reporter Andy Humm explained that "when someone being hailed as supposedly tolerant and committed to civil rights is in reality someone who shuts the door in faces of gay people on every single issue, it becomes relevant if he is homosexual".

In addition, at least a dozen reports from US gay journalists and activists on Kemp's supposed gay past have been passed onto Capital Q.

Capital Q has, however, been unable to substantiate them.

The reports come amid a mood of overwhelming disappointment on the behalf of gay groups that Dole has picked a right-wing, populist, anti-gay, pro-life candidate who opposed sanctions on apartheid South Africa, as his choice of running mate.

The HRC and the NGLTF last Friday described the would-be US Vice-President as "not as acerbic as some of his colleagues" but nonetheless someone with a "solid anti-gay record".

In May this year, commenting on the US Supreme Court's decision overturning an anti-gay constitutional amendment in Colorado, Kemp told CNN one judge "was wrong in suggesting that the people of Colorado had an animosity toward gay people. What they were basically saying, they shouldn't get special rights".

In 1990 he also opposed a non-discrimination policy and limited family benefits for gay government employees, telling the union, according to a Washington Post report in March 1992, he would not approve the contract "because the clause has been widely viewed as

extending domestic partnership benefits to gay and lesbian employees".

Kemp, who is a Distinguished Fellow of the arch-conservative, right wing policy think-tank, the Heritage Foundation, also favors firing gay teachers.

"I think a school board should have the right to choose what type of example we have for our children in public schools," he said in an interview with David Frost, according to a report in the Washington Post late last year.

"Since gay marriage is polling better than Bob Dole he had to do something dramatic," said HRC spokesperson, David M Smith.

"Though the move will be seen by many as a move to the political centre, Kemp's record indicates a continued trend to the hard right with the party firmly in the hands of religious political extremists dominated by the Christian Coalition and the ultra right wing Council for National Policy." ΔΔ

CLINTON TO, from page 6

der that prohibits taking sexual orientation into account for denying security clearances, his orders banning sexual orientation discrimination in government, his administration's commitment to fighting HIV and AIDS, and opposition to anti-gay ballot measures.

"When I ran for president in 1992, I told you about my vision for America - a vision you were and are very much a part of," he said. "I'm especially proud to be the first president ever to endorse a civil rights bill that specifically includes gay and lesbian Americans."

GAY DELEGATES, from page 6

agreement to sign the Defense of Marriage Act now pending in Congress that could allow states not to recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere.

But when that bill reaches the Senate floor on Sept. 5, three Democratic senators are expected to offer as an amendment the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban dis-

crimination based on sexual orientation.

Bill Ritter, a gay delegate from California, expressed satisfaction with the mood of pragmatic compromise.

"It's like Barney Frank says: This isn't like dating, where you're trying to find the person you're going to spend your life with," Ritter said. "This is your opportunity to work with your natural allies, and Bill Clinton is our ally, to build the best deal you can for your community."

POLLS, from page 7

Senate seat, the poll put Republican Susan Collins ahead of Democrat Joseph Brennan 48 percent to 40 percent, with three independent candidates each receiving less than 1 percent.

Brennan and Collins finished second and third behind independent Angus King in Maine's 1994 gubernatorial election.

Brennan, who has served twice

as governor and two terms as 1st District congressman, won the Democratic Senate nomination easily in June, taking 56.7 percent of the vote in a five-way race.

Collins, who served in Gov. John McKernan's Cabinet and as regional chief of the Small Business Administration, claimed the GOP Senate nomination by taking 55.5 percent of the vote in a three-way race.

DANGEROUS, from page 6

Gramm even mailed a fund-raising letter "thank[ing] God for Bill [Horn] and the thousands of parents who would not be intimidated by the liberal media or the radical homosexual community." In addition to recruiting candidates to run against Wilson, the Christian Coalition distributed more than 48,000 voter guides and mobilized thousands to vote. A special appeal letter from the Coalition stated that this election was "a test of strength between the pro-family movement and the homosexual rights movement." Ultra-conservative pastors exhorted their parishioners to "vote for those who will uphold the principles of godliness."

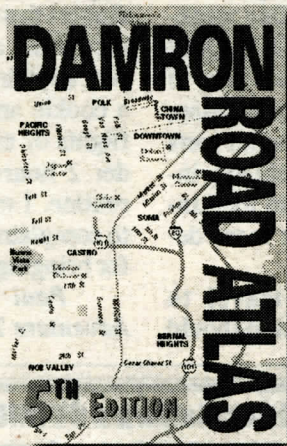
There are 15,000 school boards and Jonathon was one of only nine openly gay school board members in this

entire nation. That a cabal of rightwing media, social and religious groups would concentrate so much money and manpower to defeating him shows how desperate they are to keep people from seeing the truth. The Radical Right makes millions of dollars and wins political power by perpetuating the stereotype of the homosexual as antisocial deviant—and Jonathon Wilson blew that stereotype to smithereens.

To people who make their living selling lies, there's nothing more dangerous than the truth.

David Clarenbach is the Executive Director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a national network of committed men and women dedicated to electing qualified openly lesbian and gay candidates to public office. For more information contact 202-842-8679. ΔΔ

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CULLITON, from page 5
are a lot more supplemental resources." says Culliton.

Culliton, who grew up in rural Deerfield, New Hampshire, returned to the state after graduating cum laude from Brandeis University. Raised in a non-traditional family by her grandparents, she realized early on the importance of including and supporting

people from all walks of life.

Spending time these past few months keeping supporters up to date on the Internet's myriad of e-mail lists, Culliton always signs her messages with a quote from Benjamin Franklin: "Vicious actions are not hurtful because they are forbidden, but forbidden because they are hurtful, the nature of man alone considered." $\Delta\Delta$

Extremism

by Melinda Paras,
Executive Director,
National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has come to the Republican National Convention in 1996 to tear the mask of moderation off this convention and the GOP. The Republican Party is more extreme, more anti-democratic, than it was in 1992, despite attempts by Republican leaders to have the American public believe otherwise. Make no mistake, there is no moderation. The party and its platform are embedded with bigotry, hatred and intolerance.

The convention platform is the platform of Pat Buchanan. The Republicans, in their 1996 platform language, advocate continued discrimination against gays and lesbians. They falsely claim that extending anti-discrimination statutes to gays and lesbians would distort these laws. The Right attacks gay and lesbian families. In their platform they oppose the right of same-gender couples to marry and imply that gay families threaten the apparently fragile institution of heterosexual marriage. The Republican Right calls for a purge

of gays in the military. Ignoring common sense, actual experience, and the Defense Department's own studied conclusion, they claim homosexuality is incompatible with military service. The Republican Right strives to squash our progress on AIDS and the hope Americans have only recently begun to feel. The party platform re-writes the GOP's checkered record on AIDS and AIDS funding by falsely claiming a history of Republican support for AIDS prevention and research funding. It was this GOP that placed serious limits on the efforts of AIDS educators to speak plainly about sex and sexuality. This is a platform that while it claims to support equal opportunity for all continues to perpetuate discrimination against the gay people.

Leadership of the Republican Party is so far to the right it's chilling. We are not fooled by the false face of moderation worn these past two days under the guise of speakers such as Mary Fisher and Susan Molinari. Today, we begin to see the real deal. Today the stage is given to some of the Right's most notorious spokespeople: Defense Of Marriage Act sponsor Representative Steve Largent, anti-gay and AIDS-phobic Congressman Robert Dornan, and Christian Coalition leader Ralph Reed.

QUEER, from page 9

ticles or breasts of gays and lesbians, but one could venture the prediction that they also differ in their left-right bias from those of straight people.

As yet, there's no detailed explanation for how this link between the mind and the body comes about. The common thinking, though, is that the male sex hormone, testosterone, is a key player. It may be that the high levels of testosterone in early fetal life not only drive the development of the brain in a "male-typical" direction, but also promote the growth of the right side of the body, while low levels of testosterone permit the brain to develop in a "female-typical" direction and the body to develop in a more symmetrical fashion.

In this connection, it's worth mentioning that symmetry of facial features is known to be a key ingredient of physi-

cal attractiveness. According to a study by Ken Zucker and his colleagues at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto, highly gender-nonconformist boys (who likely will become gay men) are rated as significantly more attractive than other boys, when judged "blindly" by adult men and women. And there's a common belief (unsubstantiated by data) that gay men are better-looking than straight men. So could it be that the same biological processes that make us guys queer also give us the good looks to go with it?

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996) and the co-author (with Elisabeth Jonas) of *City of Friends*. He is also the co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached care of this publication or at SLeVay@aol.com. $\Delta\Delta$

Thursday, the true face of the GOP continues to reveal itself. The spotlight will shine on civil rights opponent, Congressman Dick Armey. Armey is best known for calling his openly gay colleague Representative Barney Frank, "Barney Fag." We will also hear from Senator Trent Lott of the secretive and far right Council for National Policy and featured in the anti-gay video *Gay Rights Special Rights*. And of course we will have vice presidential nominee Jack Kemp, the party's wolf in sheep's clothing. While he appears to be a mainstream conservative who offers the ticket a focus on conservative economic policies, Kemp is, in fact, an extremist out of step with mainstream America. Over the last fifteen years, Kemp has been part of the leadership of the hard Right, whose agenda is antithetical to democ-

racy. His voting record brands him as a right-winger on such issues as abortion, discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders, and people living with HIV and AIDS. Even Kemp's arguably moderate views on affirmative action and immigration can be called moderate only in the context of the Republican extremism that surrounds him.

And finally, we culminate with the nominee himself, Bob Dole. Dole, on issues ranging from civil rights to gays in the military, to gay marriage, to youth issues, has shown himself to be no friend to the gay community. Bob Dole and the right-wing dominated Republican Party is the Trojan Horse and America is Troy. Let's not open the gates of the country for the Trojan Horse to enter. We must keep ourselves defended from the forces of the Right. $\Delta\Delta$

National Gay/Lesbian Task Force denounces Log Cabin endorsement of Dole/Kemp

by Melinda Paras

"Although we support the ongoing work of the Log Cabin Gay and Lesbian Republicans to increase their visibility in the GOP, we strongly disagree with their endorsement of Bob Dole. A Dole-Kemp ticket is dangerous for America and dangerous for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Despite attempts to position the ticket and the convention as 'moderate,' political religious extremist still enjoy a firm command and unprecedented power in the GOP race for the presidency. Indeed, at every turn, from the divisive platform that reads like a Patrick Buchanan speech to the behind the scenes authority of the Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition, the hard Right continues to play a dominant role in the Republican party.

The Dole-Kemp campaign is a Trojan horse at the gates of American democracy. When the door of the horse opens, out will come not "moderates" but the leadership of the hard right, including the Christian Coalition, Focus on the Family, Council for National Policy, and other powerful hard right groups. Americans must guard the gate against the Trojan Horse threat of the Dole/Kemp campaign, not give it the keys to enter.

Dole's record on gay and AIDS is-

suess is mixed at best, and Kemp's is dangerously far right wing. In his own words, Dole opposed the "special interest gay agenda that runs from gays in the military and reaches as far as to suggest special status for sexual orientation under federal civil rights statutes." Bob Dole and the 1996 GOP Platform believe gays should not be protected against discrimination on the job. Bob Dole is a lead sponsor of the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act.

Jack Kemp's record is worse. He opposes gays and lesbians as teachers and opposed the Supreme Court's recent decision to overturn Colorado's Amendment 2. Both Kemp and Dole have sided time and time again with arch-conservative, notorious anti-gay lawmakers Jesse Helms and William Dannemeyer on numerous hostile amendments, including one to cut off all funding to gay community health organizations, mandatory HIV reporting and others. Kemp has made an about face on his more moderate opinions on affirmative action and immigrations since being named to the ticket.

The Log Cabin members have made bold inroads in pushing their party, and we wish them ongoing success. Against all odds, they are attempting to wrestle control of the GOP away from political religious extremists. However,

we disagree with Log Cabin on what is needed to strengthen our democracy and ensure equality for all citizens, including women, people of color, immigrants, the poor and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. This endorsement is wrong. The Dole-Kemp campaign is a danger to our struggle for justice."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is the oldest national gay and lesbian group and is a progressive organization that has supported grassroots organizing and pioneered in national advocacy since 1973. Since its inception, NGLTF has been at the forefront of virtually every major initiative for lesbian and gay rights. In all its efforts, NGLTF helps to strengthen the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement at the state level while connecting these activities to a national vision for change. $\Delta\Delta$

STUDENT, from page 4

Marlene Knisley, who testified on Culliton's behalf during an arbitration hearing last winter, said the school board reacted too harshly to Culliton's mistake. Even after her graduation, Culliton continues to support her, she said.

"I was going through a rough time at school and she called me up," Knisley said. "She helped me get back on track. I love her."

AGAINST, from page 11

ban on gay immigration—while Clinton hasn't seen a piece of anti-gay legislation he couldn't embrace.

If you want to help hold gays' dignity and pride in trust, then vote for Dole. Or vote Libertarian—they support gay marriage. Or simply skip voting for president. But if you wish to participate in your own degradation—to kiss the rod that beats you, to prepare the mud in which your face will be ground yet still again—then, yes, by all means vote for Bill Clinton.

Richard D. Mohr is the author of *Gays/Justice: A Study of Ethics, Society, and Law*. $\Delta\Delta$

BENEFITS, from page 6

posals this week and act on it in September. There is no requirement for a public hearing on this issue. However, discretionary hearings can be held on any council bill based on a single request from any of the 13 council members.

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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Through September 15

Artful Guides: Fifty Years of Teaching at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture at the Portland Museum of Art

Through September 21

The Opera of Man: Works by John Hultberg at the Portland Museum of Art

September 5 - 8

Fallfest 96, FMI call (207)993-2177

September 6 - 14

"Subject To Stress" playing at Mobius, 354 Congress St., Boston, FMI or reservations call (617)542-7416

September 14 - December 15

Torn Asunder: Collage in Twentieth Century Art at the Portland Museum of Art

September 27 - October 3

5:05 PM & 7:00 PM Railroad Square Cinema presents "Stonewall" with additional showings at 1:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. FMI 207-873-4021

September 28 - December 9

A Collective Vision: A Decade off Patronage from the Friends of the Collection at the Portland Museum of Art

Sunday, September 1

7 - 9 PM - PFLAG Plymouth, Congregational Church, Plymouth, FMI call (603)968-7254 or (603)786-9812

Sunday, September 1

7:00 - 9:00 PM - Bi Space—discussion—how bi culture is different from gay/lesbian culture, BiResource Center, 29 Stanhope St., Boston, FMI call (617)424-9595

Monday, September 2

8 PM - Terence Blanchard at Jonathon's, Ogunquit, FMI (207)646-4777

Tuesday, September 3

7 - 9:30 PM - PFLAG Seacoast Area, Community Church, Stratham, NH. "Legal and 'Religious perspectives on same-sex marriage." Mary Bonuato of the Boston-based Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation will speak, along with Louisa Bela of Christ Episcopal Church in Exeter. FMI call (603)772-5196

Thursday, September 5

Maine Speak Out Project benefit reception (5:30 - 6:30) and screening of films by Ellen Spiro (7:00 - 9:30), USM, for reservations call (207)879-0480, tickets at Drop Me A Line

Friday, September 6

7 - 9 PM - Maine Speak Out Project benefit screening of films by Ellen Spiro, USM, for reservations call (207)879-0480, tickets at Drop Me A Line

Saturday, September 7

SOLO-Single Older Lesbians Organization-Canoeing, potluck, fun & friendship, FMI call Kathy at (207)688-4737

Chiltern Mountain Club—camping and biking in Wompatuck State Park (Hingham MA), FMI call (617)859-2843

Third Annual NH Women's Music Festival, Highlands Ski Area, Northfield NH, sponsored by the NH Feminist Connection, FMI call (603)225-3501

4:00 PM Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, Special guest speaker, Sally Gore. If you didn't hear her speak at the interdenominational service Gay Pride weekend, don't miss her now.

Sunday September 8

12:00 Noon - An Amelia's Event Canoe and picnic on Grafton Pond, Enfield NH, FMI call (603)632-7146

Monday, September 9

6:30 PM - GLSTN-Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network meeting, FMI call Rita (207)766-5158

Tuesday, September 10

7:00 PM - PFLAG Portland, Woodfords Congregational Church, Portland, FMI call Rita at (207)766-5158 or Sue at (207)774-3441

7 - 8:30 PM N.H. Seacoast "Connections" a support group for care givers, parents, families and friends, all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS, meets at the Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Front St. and has wheelchair access. FMI 603-772-6221 or 603-436-8963.

Thursday, September 12

7 PM - "Georges Braque: Partner in Cubism" lecture at Portland Museum of Art Auditorium, FMI call (207)775-6148

7:30 - 9 PM - Matlovich Society, "Tom Cathcart: Taking a Stand Against Discrimination," Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, FMI call (207)761-4380

Friday, September 13

8 PM - Trout Fishing in America at Jonathon's, Ogunquit, FMI (207)646-4777

Saturday, September 14

2:30 - 6:00 PM - Women Meeting Women—lesbian social/support group meeting, Nashua, FMI call (603)881-4268

Sunday, September 15

Chiltern Mountain Club—walk the Wachusett (MA)—great for beginners, FMI call (617)859-2843

Sunday, September 15

3:00 - 5 PM - PFLAG Concord Area, First Congregational Church, Concord, FMI call (603)472-4944

Sunday, September 15

Women's Outdoor Adventure Coop. - Hike Mt. Washington from Pinkham Notch, FMI call (603)228-5692 between 6 and 9 PM

Sunday, September 15

10:30 AM - Bis on Bikes—bike ride in Greater Boston Area sponsored by Biversity Boston, FMI call (617)424-9595

Monday, September 16

7 PM - PFLAG Upper Valley Region, Congregational Church, Hanover, FMI call (603)448-1982

Thursday, September 19

9 AM - 7 PM - Interfaith Pastoral Retreat for pastoral care providers, religious educators, and other liaison people in Aroostook county, Sinclair, ME, FMI call Deb at (207)768-3056

Thursday, September 19

7:30 PM - PFLAG Nashua, Unitarian Universalist Church, Nashua, FMI call (603)880-8709

Thursday, September 19

7 PM - "Fernand Leger and the Modern Spirit" lecture at Portland Museum of Art Auditorium, FMI call (207)775-6148

Saturday, September 21

12 noon - 8 PM - Green Memorial A.M.E. Church/NAACP sponsored fund raiser for burned churches in the south., Deering Oaks Park, food, fun, etc., FMI call (207)874-2737 or (207)856-6742

Saturday, September 21

SOLO-Single Older Lesbians Organization—Bean supper, Pownal, FMI call Kathy at (207)688-4737

Saturday, September 21

Bringing Back Beijing 95-conference for women of NH based on UN 4th World Conference on Women, NH State House, Concord, FMI Phyllis K. Abell, 139 Brackett Rd., Portsmouth, NH 03801-5261

Saturday, September 21

Horseback riding and potluck with the Lakes and Mountains Connection, FMI call (603)785-2510

Sunday, September 22

10 AM - WOW-Wild Outdoor Women-canoeing, kayaking, potluck, FMI call Jen at (207)787-2379

Monday, September 23

Oak Street School for the Performing Arts Semester begins and includes classes and workshops. FMI Michael Levine 207-775-5103.

Thursday, September 26

7 PM - "Picasso and the Creation of the Market for Modern Art" lecture at Portland Museum of Art Auditorium, FMI call (207)775-6148

Thursday, September 26

7:30 - 9 PM - Matlovich Society, Video Night and Discussion, Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, FMI call (207)761-4380

Friday, September 27

Chiltern Mountain Club-Fall Jamboree in Townshend State Park (VT)—camp, bike, hike, play volleyball, enjoy the best potluck in New England, FMI call (617)859-2843

Sunday, September 29

4:00 Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church. Re-Affirmation of Ordination Vows. 456 Riverside Drive; Augusta, ME.

MLGPA 13th Annual Membership Meeting and elections

Saturday, September 21, 1996

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10:00 A.M. Juice, coffee, bagels

10:30 A.M. Presentation of 1997 goals

11:15 A.M. Election of new board and Officers

12:00 Review of 1997 budget, and board responsibilities

12:30 P.M. Adjourn

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OUTRIGHT/PORTLAND IS GROWING

The Portland chapter of Outright, a support group for gay and questioning youth, is getting its own space for a drop-in center, group meetings, and offices. The expense of rent doesn't leave much in the group's budget for furniture, so the group is asking for donations. They need CASH, sofas, shelves, CASH, TV, VCR, bulletin board, CASH, microwave, telephone, computer, CASH, stereo, desk. And, oh yeah—CASH. If you can help, call Outright at 828-6560 or call John at 775-7973. ΔΔ

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warm atmosphere and neighborhood. Available immediately. \$313 per month plus half of reasonable utilities. Call Elizabeth, 207/773-9681. Leave message. ΔΔ

ΔΔ ROOMMATE WANTED: Lesbian with two cats and two dogs looking for animal lover to share my home. Large house with deck, 2 car garage on 3 acres of woodland in beautiful East Sebago. Personal garden space available. \$400 monthly plus half electric, own phone. 207/787-2443 for details. ΔΔ

ΔΔ ROOMMATE WANTED: GF to share incredible 3-bedroom apartment in great Portland neighborhood. All utilities included. Call Dal at 775-6435. ΔΔ

ΔΔ SICK OF THE CITY?? Dog loving coastal woman at heart? New to area and don't want to get stuck in a long lease? You've found the right ad. Kennebunk lesbian and her pet dog seek female (human) to rent large sunny bedroom in 1810 Federal style home on Route 1. Shared house space includes large, unfenced yard, garden space, living room with fireplace, storage, kitchen and few modern amenities. Easy access to shops and turnpike, only 30 minutes to Portland or 40 minutes to

Portsmouth, NH. No smoking, no drugs. Your pet is welcome if she gets the nod from resident alpha dog. Call 207/985-8085 or email PerKel@cybertours.com

ΔΔ BRUNSWICK COHOUSING community forming. Come build or buy a home. Rural neighborhood clustered along pedestrian lane and common green. 70 acres preserved meadows and woodlands. Resident design includes gardens, common house, play areas. Multi-generational, inclusive. Construction begins '97. Join us! 207/773-5915. ΔΔ

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Green Memorial A.M.E. Church fund-raiser for burned churches

Green Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church and the N.A.A.C.P. are hosting a fund raiser to support the churches which have been burned in the South. The fund raiser will be held September 21 from noon until 8 p.m. at Deering Oaks Park. Churches or organizations are invited to stand together in unity with Green Memorial in proclaiming the people of Greater Portland to be against

hate crimes and discrimination. Organizations are asked to sponsor a table of prepared food (ethnic food, baked goods, or anything else that would appeal to the public—be as creative as you wish).

Organizations are encouraged to display a banner near their tables. For more information, call Rev. Margaret R.E. Lawson at 874-2737 or Kathy Ummah at 856-6742. ΔΔ

MARYLAND, from page 6

while he disappointed us in many ways, he's also the best we've ever had," Ms. Berger said.

Jan Nyquist, legislative representative for the Free State Justice Campaign, said Clinton fell short with his support of the marriage ban and failure to follow through on a pledge to end discrimination against gays in the military.

"But he's done some good work..., and I think we'll see some good things from him in the future," she said.

Scott, 40, a health care administrator with the Whitman-Walker Clinic, was elected last March as a delegate from the 8th Congressional District. The Chicago convention is his second.

"I was an openly gay person running a mainstream campaign, and in a field of 12, I was the second-highest vote-getter," he said.

In 1976, he lived in Harford County and was an elected delegate from the 1st Congressional District. But voters did not know he was gay.

"I was not out. I was not comfortable with myself," said Scott. And he doubts a gay candidate could have been elected in 1976 from a part of the state that is much more conservative than Montgomery County.

But the climate has changed and gay Americans have made a lot of progress since Clinton took office, Scott said.

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COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL

ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the L/G community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA. **Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)** promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Come and celebrate our children and friends just the way they are! (See listings for Maine & New Hampshire under PHONE SUPPORT and SUPPORT GROUPS.)

Northern Lambda Nord is an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-B), at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 S. Main St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The Phoneline. Call 207/498-2088.

The Matlovich Society is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207/761-4380.

National Association of Social Workers, ME Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. FMI call NASW, 207/622-7592.

HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS: Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General -626-8844.

Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights (CAGLR), New Hampshire's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all those interested in these goals to weekly meetings, programs, socials and various other events. Newsletter. Call Info-line (603) 224-1686 or write to PO Box 730, Concord, NH 03302-0730.

The Rainbow Business & Professional Association: A statewide, non-profit organization established to create a gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered "chamber of commerce" for Maine. Meetings for networking or dinner with speaker events, held in the Greater Portland area, second Monday of the month. FMI write P.O. Box 6627, Scarborough, ME 04070-6627, call 207.775.0015 or e-mail wildboys@mainelink.net.

Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights: Trains and deploys volunteers statewide to speak with citizen groups in their towns and regions about their lives and the lives of others who experience discrimination in Maine. For information on activities in your county: 207/879-0480 or write: MSOP, 123 Congress St., #1, Portland 04101. You need not be a speaker to work with Speakout!

MUSIC & ART

Women In Harmony is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 5136 Sta. A, Portland, ME. 04101, or call 207/774-4940.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 774-2704 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League will meet on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual artists community. FMI, call 775-3420.

PHONE SUPPORT

Region by region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-528-NCLR.

Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.

National Hotline for gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth:

Call 1-800-347-TEEN, Sponsored by the Indianapolis Youth Group. 7-10 pm Sunday to Thursday, 7 pm to midnight Friday and Saturday. Staffed & trained, peer (youth counselors. Confidential and anonymous. **New Hampshire:** Teen Crisis Line - 1-800-639-6095.

Portland:

The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.

DIAL KIDS: 774-TALK. For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs.

Ingraham Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (774-4357).

The AIDS Project: 774-6877. Located at 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

Penobscot County: HIV/AIDS Hotline-1-800-429-1481

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608 -

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: AIDS Coalition of Lewiston/Auburn: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

Oxford Hills: Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 743-7451.

Mid coast: Gay men's HELP LINE, 6:00-9:00 pm (only) M-F. 207/863-2728, FAX, 207/863-2794. Also, gay youth info.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG)

Contacts in Maine

(* indicates monthly meetings)
Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349 - F.E.
*Dover-Foxcroft: 564-7986 - Sharon
*Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519 - Sally & Gene
*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-6964 - Estelle
*Portland: Rita, 766-5158 or Sue, 774-3441
Waldoboro: 832-5859 - Sue

Contacts in New Hampshire

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline:
603/623-6023

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943
Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818
Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709
Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893
Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196
Francetown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545
Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254
Rumney: Ann, 603/786-9812
Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

DOVER, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Helpline for information, referral or need to talk. M-F 6-10 pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-2pm. 603/743-GAY2.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Medical Support

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential screening and treatment for STD's for residents and non-residents at a walk-in clinic. Low cost, medicaid accepted. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs., 3:30 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Room 303. FMI call 874-8784.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England: Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms!), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 207/874-1095.

FREE FAMILY THERAPY available for individuals & families (of any type) who are affected by HIV disease. FMI, contact Chris Behan, MSW at Center for Training and Special Programs. 207/773-6658.

Teen Life Center: Youth Clinic sponsored by City of Portland Public Health, Monday-Friday (10:00-11:30 am) The homeless health team's youth clinic is a place where you can receive free health care in a friendly environment. Located on Chestnut St. across from Portland High. Confidential health services with access to other support you may need. Drop in between 10 to 10:45 am.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Portland STD Clinic provides full range of services from screening & treatment, education & counseling and HIV antibody testing and counseling. Located in Room 303 of City Hall. Anonymous HIV testing by appointment on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. Call 874-8784. For other STD services: 874-8446.

Identity Support

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Streets. (use Washington St. entrance), FMI call 603/472-4944.

Seacoast: Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emory Lane, Stratham (1st right west of Rte 101 circle), FMI call 603/772-5196.

Nashua: Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Church, Lowell & Canal Streets., FMI call 603/880-0910.

Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI, call 603/968-7254 or 603/786-9812.

Upper Valley Region: Meets second Wednesday, 7 pm. Hanover. FMI, call 603/643-8331.

Maine P-FLAG Meetings

Portland: Meets 2nd Tuesday 7-9 PM at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St. FMI, 766-5158 or 774-3441.

Brunswick/Bath: Meets 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Wed. FMI, 729-0519.

Lewiston/Auburn: Meets last Sunday, 6:30-8:30 pm. FMI, 783-9789.

Women's Center - Belfast - Weekly meetings, 9A Main St., 2nd floor (above Jaret & Cohn) FMI, 338-5702. Group meeting every Wednesday, 6:15 pm. Women's Spirituality Gatherings, Mondays 7-9 pm.

NA: Just for Today meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 pm, at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Use Park St. entrance in rear. Also Friday meeting, 8:00 pm, Immanuel Baptist Church, corner Deering & High St., Use entrance off Deering St.

Out and About - a lesbian support and educational group, meets on 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7:00 pm., United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave, Portsmouth, NH. FMI: POB 5691, Portsmouth, NH 03902, or 603/772-8045.

Out Among Friends: Lesbian social/discussion group. Meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7-8:30 pm, in the downstairs club room of the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. \$1 donation. Contact phone: 207/879-1037.

Out on MDI: For gays, lesbians, bi's and our friends. Very active social/support group. Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, write OUT ON MDI, PO Box 367, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679-0367 or call (207) 288-2502 and leave a message.

Am Chofshi: A Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish support group, meets monthly. FMI call Rheatha at 874-2970.

Exeter Congregational Church: United Church of Christ in Exeter, NH has adopted an Open and Affirming Statement & welcomes all God's children to worship, Sundays, 10 a.m. 21 Front St. (near Court St.) Co-pastors the Revs. Michael L.C. Henderson & Jane Geffken Henderson. FMI, call Ingrid, 603/772-6221.

Lesbian/Gay Catholics: The organization Dignity/Maine offers supportive Masses for l/g/b/t Catholics & their friends/families. Third Sunday of every month at 6:00 pm in St. Luke's Cathedral, side chapel, 143 State St., Portland. Coffee & dessert after the liturgy. FMI, Rosemary or Janet: 207/646-2820 or Laurie: 207/878-0546 or write: Dignity/Maine, POB 8113, Portland 04104. All replies kept confidential.

The Appollo Society: an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenes. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI, 773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

Community of Hope: A Christian congregation which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all persons. Worship on Saturdays at 4:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FMI write Community of Hope. POB 1671, Portland, ME 041014.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group: Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm. FMI call 622-1888 or 622-4254.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Discussion Group: 1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 7-9 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Godfrey, (207) 594-2957.

W.O.W. (Wild Outdoor Women): Recreational group meets monthly for outdoor activities followed by pot luck socials. Activities: biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking. FMI: Jen @ 207/787-2379 or 207/773-5083.

Maine Frontrunners: a gay and lesbian running club sponsoring weekly run in Portland. We meet at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (corner Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. Ext.), Saturdays, 9 am. FMI, Jim-761-2059 or John-828-4896.

SOLO: Monthly Gatherings for Older, Single Lesbians: for fun & friendship. FMI, Kathy 207/688-4737 or 207/725-0179.

Support Group--Penobscot & Surrounding Counties: For men who have sex with men. Monthly meetings to talk about issues and concerns. Call 207/990-2095 for more info & meeting times.

O-Squad: Support group for lesbian, gays, bis & transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI call and leave message, (207) 778-7380.

TransSupport: Support group for cross-dressers, transsexuals, their families, friends. Meets in secure locations to provide support, education & social activities. Write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112 or phone 207/945-3092.

Gender Talk North: Gender support. Write for newsletter, P.O. Box 211, Keene, NH 03431. 603/924-8828.

Trans Counseling: Cheshire Counseling Assoc., PO Box 1124, Keene, NH 03431. 603/357-5544.

Maine Bisexual People's Network: Meets to affirm in all a positive nature of bisexuality & work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support & referrals available. FMI write P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME. 04104.

Polyamorous Life Support (PALS): Do you love more than one person? You may be polyamorous. Polyamorous Life Support (PALS) is a discussion/support group for people interested in creating/nourishing committed, loving, multipartner relationships. Whether curious or already multiply intimate, call 773-6132 FMI.

Wilde-Stein Club: Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

Prisoners of Gender: (Refusing to be Barbie, Ken or both). Meets every Friday at 1:15 pm at Davis Room, Memorial Union, UM at Orono.

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group: Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call (207) 581-1425.

Seacoast Gay Men: Social group meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI call (603) 430-4052, or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Dover, NH: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered support Group meets Sundays 7-8pm, Quaker Mtg. House, Central Ave. Social times too. FMI, 603/743-GAY2 eves.

Lewiston/Auburn: A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets Mondays at 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring St., Auburn.

Bangor Lesbian Support Group: This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: (207) 947-5337.

Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men of all ages in the western Maine, Eastern NH area who get together for pot luck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FMI, write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813-0036 or call Paul at 207/925-1034.

S.N.A.P.: Survivors Network of Those

Abused by Priests. Monthly support group for men & women healing from sexual abuse by clergy of any denomination. Meets in Portland location on third Friday of the month. FMI, call 207/774-5025.

DEGLO (Down East Gay & Lesbian Org.): Meets 2nd Saturday of the month, 5:30 pm at the UU Church, Park Street, Bangor.

Maine Gender Resource & Support Service: Information, referrals and education for the transgender community, helping professionals and the general public. Write McGRess, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894 or call (207) 945-3092.

Parents

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group: For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104.

Mothers and Kids Group: Social events and group support for lesbians and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04116.

Youth Support

OUTRIGHT TOO: Fridays, 5:00-7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, Park St., behind City Hall in Bangor. 207/990-3626.

OUTRIGHT/Central Maine: Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call "First Call" at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Fri., 7:30-9:30 pm, The People's Building, 155 Brackett St., 2nd floor, Portland. Safe & supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME. 04101.

Waldo-Knox OUTRIGHT: Meets every other Sunday in Camden for g/l/b or questioning youth 22 & under. Confidential, supportive, safe space for growth, discussion & fun. FMI Lisa at Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition 338-1427 or write P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Collect calls okay.

Concord OUTRIGHT Inc.: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at UU Church, 274 Pleasant St., next to concord Hospital & Orthopedics Clinic. 603/664-9169.

Monadnock OUTRIGHT: Meets every Thurs., 7-9 pm at "The Place To Go", 46 Concord St. (Rt. 202 N), Peterborough, 603/547-2545.

Nashua OUTRIGHT: Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursday at UU Church corner of Canal & Lowell Sts. (near Dunkin Donuts). Call Steve or Gypsy at 603/672-0792. Email: OutrightNH@AOL.com

OUTRIGHT/Seacoast: Meets every Sun. 5-7 pm (movie night), Tues. 6-8 pm (drop in), & Friday from 7 to 9 pm (support group) at the UU Church Annex (next to fire station), 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call 603/431-1013, P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

COLAGE: A national support group run by and for the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. FMI, COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #165, Dept. P, San Francisco, CA 94114.

THE MAINE YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL: Works to create safer communities and schools for minority youth. If racism or homophobia affect you, help be part of the solution. Call 207/775-4944 for information on the council and sub-committees. There is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds.

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

Mondays: People Living with HIV disease

and all friends, families, partners & caregivers, 6:30-8:00 PM.

Tuesdays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers, and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS. Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator.

Thursdays: People living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm.

2nd Thursday: Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of The AIDS Project, 1:30 pm. The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor, except the Tuesday group, Living Well. FMI on that call Sandy Titus at Stratogen Health Care. Call Jane O'Rourke at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

Arroostook County: Family and Friends Accepting Change Together (FFACT), a support group sponsored by Northern Maine AIDS Network for friends, families & careproviders. Meets every 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at the Arroostook Medical Center, conference room A. Presque Isle. FMI, Deb Madore of Health 1st, 207/768-3056 or 1-800-432-7881.

Auburn: People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 pm at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, Androscoggin and Oxford Case Manager and Support Services Coordinator for TAP at the Auburn office, 783-4301.

Augusta: Every 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 pm, Dayspring AIDS Support Services offers support for people with HIV & those who care about them. FMI, call 207/626-3435.

Bangor: Man 2 Man HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men. M2M offers education, HIV testing, support groups, HIV/AIDS Hotline and workshops. To volunteer or FMI on the program call 207/990-2095 or write: Man 2 Man, POB 2038, Bangor, ME 04402.

Biddeford: People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm. So. ME. Medical Center classroom opposite cafeteria on 2nd floor. Call John Bean, York County Case Manager, 774-6877.

Brunswick: Meetings for family and friends who have loved ones with HIV/AIDS at Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street. FMI on meeting days and times call 725-4955.

Farmington: Thursdays: 6:30-8:30 pm. HIV+ support group. Call Christie Foster at Tri-County Health Services, 778-4553, for location.

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: People Living with HIV meets from 1:30-3 pm at the Physicians Building behind KVRHA Annex. Call MASS at 725-4955.

Lewiston: 4th Thursday: Great Sexexpectations monthly drop-ins for gay, bi & questioning men of all ages. 7:00-10:00 PM, ACLA office (4 Lafayette St.) FMI, Sean-207/786-4697.

Rumford/Mexico Area: Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7-8:30 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.

New Hampshire:

Exeter: "Connections," support group for care-givers: parents, families, friends whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS, meets second Tues. from 7-8:30 pm. Exeter Congregational Church, 21 Front St., Discussions, info. sharing and support. Confidentiality assured. Wheelchair access. FMI, 603/772-6221 or 603/778-0102.

Keene: Support group for families, friends, partners of persons living with AIDS or who have died of AIDS. Confidential & anonymous. Meets every other Wed., at Planned Parenthood, 7-8:30 pm. Call Dorothy Ander-

son at 603/756-4735.

Keene: Support group for HIV positive people and those living with AIDS meets alternate Mon. 6:30 pm. For details call Schultz, 603/357-5270.

Peterborough: Support group for family, partners and friends whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS meets Tues. at noon. Call Maria Rosario-603/924-7191, ext. 1126 for details.

Monadnock Region: For info., referrals, testing, buddies, speakers & volunteer opportunities call AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region at 603/357-6855 or 1-800-639-7903 or call United Way Help-Line, 1800-368-4357.

Maine AIDS Alliance

Member Organizations

AIDS Lodging House: P.O. Box 3820, Portland, ME 04101-3820, Call 874-1000.

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, Maine 04243-7977. Call 786-4697.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: c/o Mexico Cong. Church/UCC, 43 Main St., Mexico, ME 04257. Call 364-8603.

Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.: P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04055. Call 583-6608.

Dayspring AIDS Support Services: 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. FMI, call 207/626-3432.

Down East AIDS Network: 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 667-3506.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: P.O. Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 990-3626.

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Serv.: P.O. Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057. Call 725-4955.

Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 10248, Portland, ME 04104. Call 774-2198.

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: P.O. Box 113, Paris, ME 04271-0113. Call 743-7451.

Peabody House: 14 Orchard St., Portland, ME 04102. Call 774-6281.

People With AIDS Coalition of ME.: 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.

PAWS/Pets Are Wonderful Support 120 Brackett St. Portland, ME 04102. Call 775-PAWS. E-mail paw@ime.net. Homepage: <http://www.ime.net/PAWS/>

The AIDS Project: 142 High St., 6th fl., Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-6877.

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 338-1427.

ATTENTION:
Organizations & groups
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change.

Online Resources for
Maine's LGBT Community

The Maine Gay Network

ΔThe Maine GayNet Mail List:

Share your ideas and opinions or just plain chat with other list members. To subscribe to this list, send e-mail to majordomo@abacus.oxxy.edu. In the message part, write "subscribe me-gaynet."

ΔThe Maine GayNet Home Page:

An ever-changing display of events and information. Meetings, contact people, resources, & referrals. The complete text of CPR available online, too. Point your WEB Browser at: <http://www.qrd.org> QRD/www.usa/maine FMI, e-mail Paula Stockholm: paula@maine.com ΔΔ

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